

Payment Policies for Healthcare Services

Provided to Injured Workers and Crime Victims

Update – Chapter 25: Physical Medicine Services

Low-level Laser Therapy

Effective November 1, 2023

This policy applies to [Chapter 25: Physical Medicine Services](#). The following text is removed from the chapter:

Low-level laser therapy ~~S8948~~ isn't a covered benefit.

All other existing text in the chapter still applies. The following policy is added to the chapter:



Payment policy: Low-level laser therapy

General information

The department has rescinded its coverage decision for low-level laser therapy. This modality was previously not covered, but is now a covered benefit when performed in a clinical setting.

Services that can be billed

Physical therapy (PT) providers, occupational therapy (OT) providers, board-qualified physiatrists, and board-certified physiatrists may bill for low-level laser therapy using **S8948**.

Non-board certified/qualified physical medicine attending providers may bill for low-level laser therapy using local code **1044M**. See “Payment limits” under [Payment policy: Physical therapy \(PT\) and occupational therapy \(OT\)](#) in Chapter 25 for details on billing **1044M**.

Services that aren't covered

Low-level laser therapy must be performed in a clinical setting. Low-level laser therapy isn't covered outside of a clinical setting or for home use.

Documentation requirements

Documentation is required to support all bills for low-level laser therapy services.

Payment limits

When billed using **S8948**, low-level laser therapy is **bundled** with other physical medicine services billed with CPT® codes **97010** through **97799**. The insurer won't pay an additional fee for low-level laser therapy billed using **S8948**.

Providers who bill for physical medicine services using **1044M** may only perform low-level laser therapy in conjunction with other physical medicine services billable using this code. The insurer won't pay an additional fee for low-level laser therapy beyond the maximum fee for **1044M**. See "Payment limits" under [Payment policy: Physical therapy \(PT\) and occupational therapy \(OT\)](#) in Chapter 25 for more details.