

# **Chapter 20: Physical Medicine**

**Payment Policies for Healthcare Services  
Provided to Injured Workers and Crime Victims**

**Effective July 1, 2025**



## How to navigate this document

Use the keyboard command **CTRL+F** on Windows (**Command+F** on Mac) to search for specific topics. If you can't find what you're looking for, try different keywords or combinations of words.

The Table of Contents lists each policy. To jump to a policy, click on the page number.



## Links to appendices

For definitions of terms used throughout these payment policies, see [Appendix A: Definitions](#).

For explanations of modifiers referenced throughout these payment policies, see [Appendix B: Modifiers](#).

For information about place of service codes, see [Appendix C: Place of Service \(POS\)](#).

## Updates and corrections

An annual update of the entire payment policies and fee schedules (MARFS) is published routinely to coincide with the beginning of each state fiscal year (July 1).

Throughout the year, updates and corrections may be needed to modify existing policies and fees or create new ones. Updated and corrected information supersedes the policies in MARFS. Look for possible [updates and corrections](#) to these payment policies and fee schedules on L&I's website.



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## General information: Physical medicine CPT® codes billing guidance

### Timed codes

Some physical medicine services (such as ultrasound and therapeutic exercises) are billed based on the number of minutes spent performing the service. These services are referred to as “timed services” and are billed using “timed codes”.

Timed codes can be identified in CPT® by the code description. The definition will include words such as “each 15 minutes.”

Providers must document in the daily medical record (chart note and flow sheet, if used):

- The amount of time spent for each time based service performed, *and*
- The specific interventions or techniques performed, including:
  - Frequency and intensity (if appropriate), *and*
  - Intended purpose of each intervention or technique.

Simply documenting the procedure code and the amount of time the service is performed is insufficient and may result in denial of the bill or recoupment of payment. All documentation must be submitted to support your billing (for example, flow sheets, chart notes, and reports). See [Chapter 2: Information For All Providers](#) for more details.

The number of units you can bill is:

- Determined by the time spent performing each “timed service,” and
- Constrained by the total minutes spent performing these services on a given day.

To obtain the number of units of timed services that can be billed, add together the minutes spent performing each individual timed service and reference the table below.



**Note:** Documenting a range of time (for example, 8-22 minutes) for a timed service isn't acceptable. Providers must document the actual amount of minutes spent performing the service.

If the combined duration of all time based services is at least...	and less than...	Then, when billing, report:
8 minutes	23 minutes	1 unit
23 minutes	38 minutes	2 units
38 minutes	53 minutes	3 units
53 minutes	68 minutes	4 units
68 minutes	83 minutes	5 units
83 minutes	98 minutes	6 units
98 minutes	113 minutes	7 units
113 minutes	128 minutes	8 units

### How to use this table

The above schedule of times doesn't imply that any of the first 8 minutes should be excluded from the total count. The total time of active treatment counted includes all direct treatment time.

Use the table above to determine the maximum number of units that can be billed for the date of service. Begin with applying the maximum number of units to the service performed for the longest amount of time and continue assigning units to each timed service, based on length of service performed, until the maximum number of billable units has been reached.

Pre and post delivery services (for example, warmup and cool down) aren't counted in determining the treatment time. See [what time counts towards timed codes](#). Detailed examples can be found below.

### Examples of how to document and bill timed codes

The following examples show how the required elements of interventions can be documented and billed. These examples aren't reflective of a complete medical record for the patient's visit. The other elements of reporting (SOAPER) **also must be documented**.

**Example 1**

Procedural intervention	Specific intervention	Purpose	Treatment time
Ultrasound performed with attended E-stim simultaneously	5mA right forearm 1.5 W/cm <sup>2</sup> ; 100% right forearm	Increase joint mobility	<b>12 minutes</b>
Therapeutic exercise	Active assisted ROM to right wrist; flexion/extension; 15 reps x 2 sets	Increase motion and strength for gripping	<b>14 minutes</b>
Total treatment time = <b>26 minutes</b>			
Total timed intervention (treatment time spent performing timed services) = <b>26 minutes</b>			

At 26 total minutes of timed services, a maximum of **2 units** of timed services can be billed. When both a timed and untimed service are performed simultaneously, only one of the services can be billed. In this case, only ultrasound would be billed. Correct billing for the services documented is:

- **97110** (Therapeutic exercise) x 1 unit, and
- **97035** (Ultrasound) x 1 unit.

**Example 2**

Procedural intervention	Specific intervention	Purpose	Treatment time
Therapeutic exercise	Left leg straight leg raises x 4 directions; 3 lbs. each direction. 10 reps x 2 sets	Strength and endurance training for lifting	<b>20 minutes</b>
Neuromuscular reeducation	1 leg stance, 45 seconds left; 110 seconds on right using balance board x 2 sets each	Normalize balance for reaching overhead	<b>15 minutes</b>
Cold pack	Applied to left knee	Decrease edema	<b>10 minutes</b>
Total treatment time = <b>45 minutes</b>			
Total timed intervention (treatment time spent performing timed services) = <b>35 minutes</b>			

At 35 total minutes of timed services, a maximum of **2 units** of timed services can be billed. Correct billing for the services documented is:

- **97110** (Therapeutic exercise) x 1 unit, and
- **97112** (Neuromuscular reeducation) x 1 unit.



**Note:** Cold packs are an untimed service, but are considered **bundled**.

**Example 3**

Procedural intervention	Specific intervention	Purpose	Treatment time
Manual therapy	Soft tissue mobilization to medial knee - right	Mobilization	<b>12 minutes</b>
Therapeutic exercises	Prone hip extension 10 reps x 2 sets; hamstring stretch 3 reps x 2 sets; right single leg stance 3 sets of 5 for 15 second hold	Increase strength and range of motion	<b>25 minutes</b>
Cold pack	Applied to right knee	Decrease edema	<b>10 minutes</b>
<b>Total treatment time = 47 minutes</b>			
<b>Total timed intervention (treatment time spent performing timed services) = 37 minutes</b>			

At 37 total minutes of timed services, a maximum of **2 units** of timed services can be billed. Begin with applying the maximum number of units to the service performed for the longest time. Therapeutic exercise was performed for 25 minutes, which equates to 2 units of timed service. Because no additional units of timed services are allowed, manual therapy isn't billable. Correct billing for the services documented is:

- **97110** (Therapeutic exercise) x 2 units



**Note:** Cold packs are an untimed service, but are considered **bundled**.

**Example 4**

Procedural intervention	Specific intervention	Purpose	Treatment time
Neuromuscular re-education	Squats on Airex Balance pad 10 reps x 2 sets; tandem balance on Bosu Ball 2 sets 30 seconds each; single stance on Airex Balance pad 2 sets x 5	Normalize balance for reaching overhead	<b>8 minutes</b>
Manual therapy	Soft tissue mobilization to medial knee - right	Mobilization	<b>12 minutes</b>
Therapeutic exercises	Hamstring curls 10 reps x 2 sets; short arc quads 3 sets of 5 for 5 second hold; straight leg raise 3 sets of 5 for 15 second hold	Increase strength and range of motion	<b>25 minutes</b>
Cold pack	Applied to right knee	Decrease edema	<b>10 minutes</b>
Total treatment time = <b>55 minutes</b>			
Total timed intervention (treatment time spent performing timed services) = <b>45 minutes</b>			

At 45 minutes of timed services, a maximum of **3 units** of timed services can be billed. Begin with applying the maximum number of units to the service performed for the longest time. Therapeutic exercises was performed for 25 minutes, which equates to 2 units of timed service. The balance of billable units is 1 unit. Since more time was spent performing manual therapy, assign the last unit of service to manual therapy. Because no additional units of timed services are allowed, neuromuscular re-education isn't billable. Correct billing for the services documented is:

- **97110** (Therapeutic exercise) x 2 units
- **97140** (Manual therapy) x 1 unit



**Note:** Cold packs are an untimed service, but are considered **bundled**.

## Prohibited pairs: Which CPT® codes can't be billed together

A therapist can't bill any of the following pairs of CPT® codes for outpatient therapy services provided simultaneously to 1 or more patients **for the same time period**:

- Any 2 codes for “therapeutic procedures” requiring direct, one-on-one patient contact, *or*
- Any 2 codes for modalities requiring “constant attendance” and direct, one-on-one patient contact, *or*
- Any 2 codes requiring either constant attendance or direct, one-on-one patient contact, as described above (for example, any CPT® codes for a therapeutic procedure with any attended modality CPT® code), *or*
- Any code for therapeutic procedures requiring direct, one-on-one patient contact with the group therapy code (for example, CPT® code **97150** with CPT® code **97112**), *or*
- Any code for modalities requiring constant attendance with the group therapy code (for example, CPT® code **97150** with CPT® code **97035**), *or*
- An untimed evaluation or reevaluation code with any other timed or untimed codes, including constant attendance modalities, therapeutic procedures, and group therapy.

## Determining what time counts towards timed codes

Providers report the code for the time actually spent in the delivery of the modality requiring constant attendance and therapy services:

- Pre and post delivery services (for example, warmup and cool down services) aren't counted in determining the treatment service time. In other words, the time counted as “intra-service care” begins when the therapist is working directly with the patient to deliver treatment services.
- The patient should already be in the treatment area (for example, on the treatment table or mat or in the gym) and prepared to begin treatment.
- The time counted is the time the patient is treated.
- The time the patient spends not being treated because of the need for toileting or resting can't be billed. In addition, the time spent waiting to use a piece of equipment or for other treatment to begin isn't considered treatment time.

Regardless of the number of units billed, the daily maximum fee for services won't be exceeded.



**Link:** More information about [L&I's PT, OT, and massage therapy policies](#) is available online.



## Payment policy: Chiropractic care visits

### General information

Chiropractic care visits are office or other outpatient visits involving subjective and objective assessment of patient status, management, and treatment.

The number of body regions being adjusted is only one of the factors that may contribute to visit complexity, but should be weighted less heavily than other components. For the purposes of this policy, body regions include:

- Cervical (includes atlanto-occipital joint),
- Thoracic (includes costovertebral and costotransverse joints),
- Lumbar
- Sacral
- Pelvic (includes sacroiliac joint), *and*
- Extra-spinal (considered one region), which includes:
  - Head (includes temporomandibular joint; doesn't include atlanto-occipital),
  - Upper and lower extremities, *and*
  - Rib cage (doesn't include costotransverse and costovertebral joints).

### Prior authorization

Prior authorization is required for all types of conservative care, including chiropractic, when billing for:

- More than 20 office visits, *or*
- Visits that occur more than 60 days after the first date you treat the worker.



**Links:** For more information, see [WAC 296-20-030\(1\)](#) and [WAC 296-20-03001\(1\)](#).

### Documentation requirements

Chiropractors must document all body regions treated each visit. Documentation must support the level of service billed as described in [Determining the level of a chiropractic care visit](#).

All other standard documentation rules apply for chiropractic care visits performed. See [Chapter 2: Information for All Providers](#) for details.

When treating subluxations and/or segmental dysfunction adjacent to areas that have been accepted on a claim, the provider must document how the adjacent areas are related to the injury or if they are a separate area of injury that has not already been accepted.



**Note:** For documentation of E/M services, see [Chapter 9: Evaluation and Management \(E/M\)](#).

## Services that can be billed

Local codes **2050A**, **2051A**, and **2052A** account for both professional management (clinical complexity) and the technical service (manipulation and adjustment).

### Expectations for chiropractic care visits

When performing a chiropractic care visit, billable using codes **2050A**, **2051A**, and **2052A**, it's expected that the provider will perform the following pre-, intra-, and post- services:

- Education of the patient, which may include:
  - How the treatment will affect the patient,
  - What the patient should do to improve recovery, *and/or*
  - Asking the patient if they understand the intended treatment and consent to it,
- Brief review of employment issues and work restrictions,
- Review of physical abilities/restrictions,
- Pre-manipulation patient assessment, including deciding which areas to adjust,
- Manipulation (adjustment), *and*
- Post-treatment service, which includes:
  - Instructions for patient to help improve their recovery and avoid re-injury,
  - Inform patient of things to watch out for that might indicate a problem,
  - Evaluation of effectiveness of treatment,
  - Evaluation of patient response, *and*
  - Review of the treatment plan with the patient.

### Determining the level of chiropractic care visit

Treatment must meet or exceed at least **3** factors in one column to bill that level. The appropriate level of service to bill is equal to the highest 3 out of 5 factors. If no information is documented about a given factor, it defaults to Straightforward.

Factor	Straightforward (2050A)	Low (2051A)	Moderate (2052A)
<b>Severity of condition(s)</b>	Simple condition(s)	Multiple conditions or a single complex condition	Multiple complex conditions and/or a condition with neurological findings
<b>Body regions treated</b>	Up to 2 body regions (incl. spine and/or extremities)	Up to 3 or 4 body regions (incl. spine and/or extremities)	Up to 5 or more regions (incl. spine and/or extremities)
<b>Time spent</b>	Up to 10 minutes of face-to-face time	11-20 minutes of face-to-face time	Over 20 minutes of face-to-face time
<b>Co-morbidities</b>	None or not affecting recovery	One or two comorbidities impeding recovery	Multiple comorbidities or psychosocial factors impeding recovery
<b>Treatment plan</b>	No changes needed to plan	Minor changes needed to plan	Major changes needed to plan

## Factor examples

### Treatment plan

**Minor changes** include contact points/segments, method/technique, visit frequency, or home care instruction alterations in a condition progressing as expected.

**Major changes** include alterations that require new informed consent for expected outcomes or adverse events, new home care routines, or changes because of prior adverse events post-treatment or new data/test results.

### Severity of condition

**Straightforward:** Condition is progressing as expected. Lumbar strain with acute localized back pain and segmental dysfunction.

**Low:** Uncertain prognosis or challenges in diagnostic certainty, two or more conditions. Lumbar and thoracic strain with referred pain to flank/glute.

**Moderate:** Severe exacerbation/aggravation of condition, two or more conditions that involve multiple areas and have potential for significant negative outcomes for the patient, which may include neurologic involvement. Diabetic patient with Lumbar strain and pain/tingling in upper leg with myotome/dermatome deficit.

## When billing E/M is appropriate

When services provided exceed the [expectations for a chiropractic care visit](#) and meet the CPT® criteria, an evaluation and management (E/M) code may be appropriate. For example:

- Establishing a diagnosis, history, and treatment plan during an **initial visit**,
- Reevaluating the patient's physical condition, obtaining interval history, and updating patient progress,
- Reviewing and discussing diagnostic testing results, and/or notes from other providers with the worker, which may result in adjusting the treatment plan,
- Counseling and educating above and beyond what is necessary to complete an adjustment, *and/or*
- Referring for tests or diagnostics.

The E/M code must be billed with modifier **-25** when billed with **2050A**, **2051A**, or **2052A**. The patient must be present for any E/M services to be billable; record review alone is not sufficient to bill E/M. See [Chapter 9: Evaluation and Management \(E/M\)](#) for additional details.

## Services that aren't covered

CPT® chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMT) codes **98940-98943** aren't covered.

Instead of using CMT codes, L&I uses local codes developed in collaboration with the Washington State Chiropractic Association and the University of Washington (see Services that can be billed, above).

Treatment of chronic migraine or chronic tension-type headache with chiropractic manipulation/manual therapy isn't a covered benefit.



**Link:** The [L&I coverage decision](#) for treatment of Chronic Migraine or Chronic Tension-type Headache is available online.

## Payment limits

Only 1 chiropractic care visit per day is payable.

Extra-spinal manipulations aren't billed separately from each other (all extremities are considered to be one body region).

Providers can only bill a **new patient** or **established patient** E/M code and a chiropractic care local code (**2050A**, **2051A**, or **2052A**) for the same date of service when the E/M service is significantly separately identifiable and meets the requirements to use modifier **-25**. Time spent or treatment performed as part of a chiropractic care visit can't be counted when determining which level of E/M to bill; all E/M services need to be assessed for billing level separately from the chiropractic care services. For details, see [Services that can be billed](#) (above) and [Chapter 9: Evaluation and Management \(E/M\)](#).



## Payment policy: Electrical stimulators (including TENS)

### Prior authorization

These HCPCS codes for **electrical stimulator devices for home use or surgical implantation** require prior authorization:

HCPCS code	Brief description	Additional coverage information
<b>E0745</b>	Neuromuscular stimulator for shock	This code is covered for <b>muscle denervation only</b> .
<b>E0747</b>	Electrical osteogenesis stimulator, not spine	—
<b>E0748</b>	Electrical osteogenesis stimulator, spinal	—
<b>E0749</b>	Electrical osteogenesis stimulator, implanted	Authorization for this code is subject to <b>utilization review</b> .
<b>E0760</b>	Osteogenesis ultrasound, stimulator	This code is covered for appendicular skeleton only ( <b>not the spine</b> ).
<b>E0764</b>	Functional neuromuscular stimulator	—

### Services that can be billed

For electrical stimulator devices **used in the office setting**:

- When it is within the provider's scope of practice, a provider may bill professional services for application of stimulators with the CPT® physical medicine codes.
- **Attending providers** who aren't board qualified or certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation must bill local code **1044M**, which is limited to 6 units per claim. For more information, see the Physical medicine services for **attending providers** policy in [Chapter 3: Attending providers](#).

For electrical stimulator devices and supplies for **home use or surgical implantation**, HCPCS code **E0761** (Nonthermal electromagnetic device) is covered.

## Services that aren't covered

For **use outside of medically supervised facility settings** (including home use and purchase or rental of **durable medical equipment** and supplies), the insurer doesn't cover:

- Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulators (TENS) units and supplies, or
- Interferential current therapy (IFC) devices, or
- Percutaneous neuromodulation therapy (PNT) devices.



**Note:** Use of these therapies will continue to be covered during hospitalization and in clinical settings.

For **home use or surgical implantation devices and supplies**, these HCPCS codes aren't covered:

- **E0731** (Conductive garment for TENS),
- **E0740** (Incontinence treatment system),
- **E0744** (Neuromuscular stimulator for scoliosis),
- **E0755** (Electronic salivary reflex stimulator),
- **E0762** (Transcutaneous electrical joint stimulation device system),
- **E0765** (Nerve stimulator for treatment of nausea and vomiting),
- **E0769** (Electric wound treatment device, not otherwise classified),
- **L8680** (Implantable neurostimulator electrode),
- **S8130** (Interferential current stimulator, 2 channel),
- **S8131** (Interferential current stimulator, 4 channel).

For home use or in medically supervised facility settings, CPT® code **64555** (Peripheral nerve neurostimulator) isn't covered.

Treatment of chronic migraine or chronic tension-type headache with trigger point injections or massage therapy isn't a covered benefit. See [L&I's coverage decision](#) for more details.

## Payment limits

These supplies are **bundled and not payable separately for office use**:

- **A4365** (Adhesive remover wipes),
- **A4455** (Adhesive remover per ounce),
- **A4556** (Electrodes, pair),
- **A4557** (Lead wires, pair),
- **A4558** (Conductive paste or gel),
- **A5120** (Skin barrier wipes box per 50),
- **A6250** (Skin seal protect moisturizer).

### **Additional information: Why the insurer doesn't cover TENS**

Based on extensive review of the evidence for use of Electrical Nerve Stimulation (ENS), including TENS, interferential current therapy (IFC), and percutaneous neuromodulation therapy (PNT) as treatment for acute and chronic pain, the State Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) determined that ENS isn't covered for use outside of medically-supervised facilities. Purchase or rental of TENS, IFC, or PNT equipment is also not covered. For more details, see the [HTCC decision paper](#).



## Payment policy: Functional capacity evaluations (FCEs)

### Prior authorization

Requires prior authorization by the claim manager.

### Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

To qualify for payment, a functional capacity evaluation must be performed by:

- Physicians who are board qualified or certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, *or*
- Physical and occupational therapists.

### Services that can be billed

Each provider must bill independently for their time using the following codes:

Code	Description and notes	Maximum fee
<b>1045M</b>	<p><b>Standard Functional Capacity Evaluation</b></p> <p>Must involve a minimum of 3 hours of face-to-face time between all evaluating providers.</p>	<p><b>\$288.97</b> per unit</p> <p>1 unit = 1 hour</p> <p>Maximum 6 units total per worker, not to exceed <b>\$866.91</b>.</p>
<b>1098M</b>	<p><b>Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluation</b></p> <p>When the Standard FCE evaluation exceeds 6 hours. This may be appropriate when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional testing is required for multiple jobs with opposite physical demands,</li> <li>• Performing a whole body and upper extremity focused evaluation, <i>or</i></li> <li>• Symptomatic neurological conditions impact testing tolerance</li> </ul> <p>and/or</p> <p>When follow up testing is indicated after completion of a Standard FCE in order for an <b>Attending Provider</b> or vocational provider to facilitate return to work decisions.</p>	<p><b>\$145.02</b> per unit</p> <p>1 unit = 1 hour</p> <p>Maximum 6 units total per worker.</p>

### Example of billing for multiple provider evaluations

**Scenario:** The Occupational Therapist (OT) performed 3.2 hours of direct time and the Physical Therapist (PT) performed 0.8 hours of direct time for a Standard FCE.

OT:	3 units of <b>1045M</b>
PT:	1 unit of <b>1045M</b>
Total units billed: 4	
Maximum fee of <b>\$866.91</b>	

### Services that aren't covered

Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluations using **1098M** can't be billed for:

- Additional time to perform missed or forgotten testing, or
- Updates to an incomplete or conflicting report.

### Requirements for billing

When billing, 1 hour of direct face-to-face time = 1 unit of service. If the service is 31 minutes or greater, this meets the requirement for 1 unit of service. Time accumulates regardless of the number of days the FCE is performed over.

Eligible providers must bill their usual and customary fee for Standard Functional Capacity Evaluations and Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluations.

When the service is performed by multiple providers, each provider must bill for the amount of direct one-on-one time they spent performing the evaluation using their individual provider account number.

These services include testing, a summary of findings, and a full evaluation report. **All summary reports must be submitted within 10 days of when the service was performed and full evaluation reports within 30 days.**



**Note:** Ensure all documentation is submitted before billing or the bill may be denied.

## Documentation requirements

Documentation for any Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) must include:

- Date of service,
- Worker name,
- Claim number,
- Duration of the evaluation. Each provider must also separately document the amount of direct one-on-one time they spent performing the service,
- Signature and date of all evaluators, and
- Completed Capacity Form ([F245-434-000](#)) for State Fund (in-state claims) or an equivalent summary of findings for out-of-state and self-insured claims.

For a Standard FCE, documentation must also include [L&I's minimum evaluation elements](#).

For a Supplemental FCE, documentation must also include a list of all tests performed and all results of those tests.



**Note:** Although the department allows joint chart notes for FCEs, the documentation must clearly note who performed each service and how much time each individual provider spent providing the direct one-on-one evaluation. Include this information on both the summary of findings and full evaluation report.

## Payment limits

Standard and Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluations (**1045M** and **1098M**) may only be billed once per worker every 30 days.

### Multiple providers

If the FCE is performed by multiple providers, the maximum fee applies once per worker regardless of how many providers and/or provider types performed the evaluation.

### Multiple claims

If the worker has multiple claims, the maximum fee for the FCE applies once per worker regardless of the number of claims a worker may have. When this occurs, therapists must appropriately bill the portion of the visit related to each accepted claim. For more information, refer to the physical medicine [split billing policy](#) in this chapter.

**Multiple days**

Standard and Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluations may be provided over multiple days. If this occurs, the bill must span the dates of service to reflect the actual dates in which the evaluation was performed. For example, if the evaluation began on January 1 and was completed on January 3, the bill will reflect the “From Date of Service” as January 1 and the “To Date of Service” as January 3.



## Payment policy: Low level laser therapy (LLLT)

### Services that can be billed

Low level laser therapy (LLLT) is a covered benefit when performed in a clinical setting.

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

Non-board certified/qualified physical medicine **attending providers** must bill for low level laser therapy using local code **1044M**. For more information, see the Physical medicine services for **attending providers** policy in [Chapter 3: Attending Providers](#).

### Services that aren't covered

Low level laser therapy isn't covered outside of a clinical setting or for home use.

CPT® code **97037** isn't covered.

HCPCS code **0552T** isn't covered.

### Payment limits

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

The insurer won't pay an additional fee for low level laser therapy beyond the maximum fee for **1044M**.

Code **1044M** has a limit of 6 units per claim. The insurer won't authorize additional visits for laser therapy. For more information, see the Physical medicine services for **attending providers** policy in [Chapter 3: Attending Providers](#).

Low level laser therapy must be performed in conjunction with other physical medicine treatment at the same visit. Bills for visits where only LLLT is performed without other treatment may result in denial of the bill or recoupment of payment.



## Payment policy: Massage therapy

### Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

To qualify for payment, massage therapy services must be performed by:

- A licensed massage therapist, *or*
- Other covered provider whose scope of practice includes massage techniques.

### Prior authorization

Massage therapy services require prior authorization after the 6th visit.



**Link:** For more information, see [WAC 296-23-250](#).

### Services that can be billed

Massage therapy services must be billed using CPT® code **97124** for all forms of massage therapy, regardless of the technique used. The insurer won't pay massage therapists for additional codes.

### Requirements for billing

Massage therapists must bill CPT® code **97124** for all forms of massage therapy, regardless of the technique used. Massage therapists must also use CPT® code **97124** for evaluations and reevaluations. All other providers must bill the code most reflective of the technique being used.

Massage therapists must bill their usual and customary fee and document the duration of the massage therapy treatment. Bill the appropriate units based on the length of time the service is rendered, per CPT® code description.

Documentation must support the units of service billed. Document the amount of time spent performing evaluations and reevaluations as well as the treatment. See additional information about [Timed Codes](#) for more details.



**Note:** Documenting only a procedure code or a range of time (for example, 8-22 minutes) for a timed service isn't acceptable. Providers must document the actual service and the amount of minutes spent performing the service.

## Massage Therapist Progress Reports

Massage therapists are required to submit progress reports following every 6 treatment visits or after each month, whichever comes first. Documentation must include:

- an outline of the proposed treatment program, *and*
- the expected restoration goals, *and*
- the expected length of treatment, *and*
- substantiation of improvement during the most recent treatment period, such as:
  - signs of treatment progress (e.g. range of motion, sitting and standing tolerance, reduction in medication), *and/or*
  - [self-reported functional outcome measures from L&I's recommended scales](#) (such as the patient-specific functional scale).

Failure to submit a progress report after each set of 6 visits or 1 month of treatment, whichever comes first, may result in denial of bills and/or revocation of authorization for treatment.



**Link:** See pages 16-20 in [Options for Documenting Functional Improvement in Conservative Care](#) for more examples of appropriate functional scales.

## Payment limits

Massage therapy is paid at **75%** of the maximum daily rate for PT and OT services.

The daily maximum allowable amount is **\$112.09**.



**Link:** For more information, see [WAC 296-23-250](#).

## Services that aren't covered

These items are **bundled** into the massage therapy service and aren't separately payable:

- Application of hot or cold packs,
- Anti-friction devices,
- Lubricants (for example, oils, lotions, emollients).

Massage therapy isn't a covered benefit for the treatment of chronic migraine or chronic tension-type headaches. See [L&I's coverage decision](#) for more details.



## Payment policy: Osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT)

### General information

For the purposes of this policy, body regions are defined as:

- Head,
- Cervical,
- Thoracic,
- Lumbar,
- Sacral,
- Pelvic,
- Rib cage,
- Abdomen and viscera regions, *and*
- Lower and upper extremities.

### Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

Only osteopathic (DO) or naturopathic (ND) physicians may bill for OMT services.

### Requirements for billing

OMT includes pre and post service work (for example, cursory history and palpatory examination). The E/M service may be caused or prompted by the same diagnosis as the OMT service. A separate diagnosis isn't required for payment of an E/M service in addition to OMT services on the same day.

An E/M office visit service may be billed in conjunction with OMT **only when all** of the following conditions are met:

- When the E/M service constitutes a significant separately identifiable service that exceeds the usual pre and post service work included with OMT, *and*
- The worker's record contains documentation supporting the level of E/M service billed, *and*
- The E/M service is billed using modifier **-25**. Without modifier **-25**, the insurer won't pay for E/M codes billed on the same day as OMT.

For details, see [Chapter 9: Evaluation and Management \(E/M\)](#).

## Payment limits

The insurer may reduce payments or process recoupments when E/M services aren't documented sufficiently to support the level, type and extent of service billed. The MARFS and CPT® book describes the requirements that must be present for each level of service.

For OMT services, only 1 CPT® code is payable per treatment. This is because CPT® codes for body regions ascend in value to accommodate the additional body regions involved. For example, if 3 body regions were manipulated, 1 unit of the correct CPT® code would be payable.

## Services that aren't covered

Manual therapy billed under CPT® code **97140** or local code **1044M** isn't covered for osteopathic physicians.



## Payment policy: Physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT)

### Prior authorization

No authorization is needed for less than 12 visits as long as the claim is open and allowed, treatment is for accepted conditions on the claim, and referral is from the **attending provider** per [WAC 296-20-030](#).

**Prior authorization is required for additional visits beyond the initial 12**, except for psychiatrists. Psychiatrists don't need authorization to provide physical therapy services.

To request authorization for visits 13-24, first submit to the insurer:

- A referral for ongoing treatment,
- The initial evaluation report,
- Daily chart notes, *and*
- All progress reports.

Then fax the [Physical/Occupational/Massage Therapy Provider Hotline Service Authorization Request](#) form to the department for consideration.

For beyond 24 visits, request Utilization Review from [Comagine Health](#) directly.

Physical and Occupational therapy visits accumulate separately. Visit counts are the total number of visits per claim. New referrals, restart of therapy following surgery, or treatment of new conditions on the same claim don't start again at visit 1.

Learn more about these services on [the L&I PT/OT webpage](#).

## Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

### Physical Therapy (PT)

PT services must be ordered by the worker's **attending provider**. The services must be provided by a:

- Licensed physical therapist, *or*
- Physical therapist assistant serving under a licensed physical therapist's direction, *or*
- Athletic trainer serving under a licensed physical therapist's direction.

For details about **students** performing PT services, see the [Therapy student and therapy assistant payment policy](#).



**Link:** For more information, see [WAC 296-23-220](#).

### Occupational Therapy (OT)

OT services must be ordered by the worker's **attending provider**. The services must be provided by a:

- Licensed occupational therapist, *or*
- Occupational therapy assistant serving under a licensed occupational therapist's direction.

For details about **students** performing OT services, see the [Therapy student and therapy assistant payment policy](#).



**Link:** For more information, see [WAC 296-23-230](#).

### Physical medicine services by other providers

Physical medicine services may also be provided by:

- Medical or osteopathic physicians who are board qualified or board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation (physiatry) and billed under CPT® 97010-97799, *or*
- Attending doctors who aren't board qualified or certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation and billed under local code **1044M**. For non-board certified/qualified providers, special payment policies apply. See the Physical medicine services for **attending providers** policy in [Chapter 3: Attending providers](#).



**Link:** For more information, see [WAC 296-21-290](#).

### Who won't be paid for physical medicine services

- Exercise physiologists, *or*
- Kinesiologists, *or*
- Physical or occupational therapist aides, *or*
- Gym supervisors.

## Services that can be billed

Medical or osteopathic physicians who are board qualified or board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation as well as physical and occupational therapists must use CPT® and HCPCS codes **97010-97799** for physical medicine services. These providers may also bill for miscellaneous materials and supplies using HCPCS codes. Some of these CPT® and HCPCS codes aren't covered or are **bundled**. Refer to the [professional provider fee schedule](#) for coverage.

If more than 1 patient is treated at the same time, use CPT® code **97150**.

Only medical or osteopathic physicians who are board qualified or board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation and physical therapists may bill **95992**.

### Evaluation

For an evaluation performed by a physiatrist or therapist to establish a plan of care, use CPT® codes **97161-97163** or **97165-97167**.

To revise the plan of care of a patient who has been under a plan of care established by the physician or therapist, use CPT® codes **97164** or **97168**. CPT® codes **97164** and **97168** have no limit on how often they can be billed.



**Link:** For information on Surgical dressings dispensed for home use, see [Chapter 7: Durable Medical Equipment \(DME\) and Supplies](#).

For billing requirements for prosthetic and orthotic devices, see [Chapter 7: Durable Medical Equipment \(DME\)](#).

For information on billing for telephone calls, online communications, or team conferences, see [Chapter 9: Evaluation and Management \(E/M\)](#)

### Other physical medicine services

Non-board certified/qualified physical medicine **attending providers** may perform physical medicine modalities and procedures described in CPT® codes **97010-97750** if their scopes of practice and training permit it, but for these services they must bill local code **1044M**. The description for local code **1044M** is “AP provider physical medicine services”.

For more information, see the Physical medicine services for **attending providers** policy in [Chapter 3: Attending providers](#).

## Services that aren't covered

Physical medicine CPT® codes **97033** and **97169-97172** aren't covered.

Cryotherapy devices with or without compression for home use aren't covered as **Durable Medical Equipment**. These devices used in a clinical setting are considered **bundled** into existing physical medicine services. For more information, please review [L&I's coverage decision for Cryotherapy Devices With or Without Compression](#).

Non-vasopneumatic compression devices without a cryotherapy component aren't a covered benefit. For more information, please review [L&I's coverage decision for Non-vasopneumatic Devices without a Cryotherapy Component](#).

Services defined by CPT® Category III codes that aren't covered on the professional fee schedule can't be billed using any of the physical medicine codes.

## Documentation requirements

Progress reports are due following 12 treatment visits or every 1 month, whichever comes first. PT and OTs treating workers covered by state-fund must use the Physical Medicine Progress Report form [F245-453-000](#) and submit this to the insurer and the **attending provider**. Progress reports must include functional outcome measures.

Providers can use the [Documenting Functional Improvement resource](#) to help prepare these progress reports.



**Link:** For more information, see [WAC 296-23-220](#) and [WAC 296-23-230](#).

## Payment limits

### Physical medicine services

Non-board certified/qualified physical medicine providers won't be paid for CPT® codes **97010-97799**.

## Bundled items or services

**Bundled** items or services include, but aren't limited to:

- Activity supplies used in work hardening, such as leather and wood,
- Application of hot or cold packs (this includes all forms of cryotherapy with or without compression. **97016** may not be used to bill for these services),
- Electrodes and gel,
- Exercise balls,
- Ice packs, ice caps, and ice collars,
- Thera-tape,
- Wound dressing materials used during an office visit and/or PT treatment.

## Daily maximum for services

The daily maximum allowable fee for PT and OT services is **\$149.45**.

If PT, OT, and massage therapy services are provided on the same day, the daily maximum applies once for each provider type. See the [Massage Therapy](#) payment policy in this chapter for the daily maximum fee that applies to massage therapists.

When performed for the same claim for the same date of service, the daily maximum applies to CPT® codes **20560-20561**, **95992**, and **97010-97799**.

If the worker receives PT or OT services for 2 separate claims with different allowed conditions on the same date, the daily maximum will apply for each claim.

The daily maximum allowable fee doesn't apply to:

- Speech language pathologists, *or*
- Physicians board certified in physical medicine (physiatrists), *or*
- Functional capacity evaluations (FCEs), *or*
- Work rehabilitation services, *or*
- Work evaluations, *or*
- Job modification/pre-job accommodation **consultation** services.



**Links:** For more information, see [WAC 296-23-220](#) and [WAC 296-23-230](#).

### Split billing – unrelated conditions

When treating 2 or more separate conditions that aren't related to the same claim at the same visit, the split billing policy applies.



**Link:** For more information on split billing procedures and requirements, see the Split billing – treating multiple separate conditions payment policy in [Chapter 2: Information for All Providers](#).

### Untimed Services

Supervised modalities and therapeutic procedures that don't list a specific time increment in their description are limited to 1 unit per day. Refer to CPT® and HCPCS to determine whether a service is time-based or untimed.

Providers must document the actual service provided including frequency and intensity (if appropriate), and the intended purpose for each service. Simply documenting the procedure code is insufficient and may result in denial of the bill or recoupment of payment. All documentation **must be submitted** to support your billing (for example, flow sheets, chart notes, and reports).



## Payment policy: Powered traction therapy

### Services that can be billed

When performed as part of a physical medicine modality, the use of powered traction devices are covered. The insurer won't reimburse separately for the use of the device, only for the service delivery.

### Payment limits

The insurer won't pay any additional cost when powered devices are used.

#### **Additional information: Why the insurer won't pay additional cost when powered devices are used**

Published literature hasn't substantially shown that powered devices are more effective than other forms of traction, other conservative treatments or surgery. This policy applies to all FDA approved powered traction devices. See [L&I's coverage decision](#) for more details.



## Payment policy: Physical and occupational therapy student supervision

### General information

L&I has adopted a modified version of Medicare Part B's policy on physical and occupational therapy **students**. L&I considers supervised **students** an extension of their supervising therapist.

Please refer to the [Appendix A: Definitions](#) appendix to see the definitions of **student**, supervising therapist, and student supervision.

### Services that can be billed

Supervising therapists will direct all care provided by their **students** to injured workers and must bill for these services under the supervising therapist's provider account number.

All billed services must meet the billing and documentation requirements applicable to the supervising therapist.

### Services that aren't covered

Any service provided by a **student** that is unsupervised (including in skilled nursing facilities) isn't payable.

**Students** can't independently:

- Make clinical judgements,
- Provide evaluations, re-evaluations or assessments, *or*
- Develop, manage, or deliver services.

Any service that deviates from the requirements outlined in Medical Aid Rules and Fee Schedules isn't covered.

Direct supervision in accordance with **student** licensures must be provided in-person, even if the service is provided to the worker via **telehealth**. Modifier **-FR** is not covered.



**Note:** Direct supervision of therapy assistants may occur via **telehealth** (modifier **-FR**) when the service to the worker is allowed via **telehealth**. Certain services require in-person care. These services require in-person direct supervision in alignment with DOH requirements for the assistant licensure.

## Requirements for billing

All chart notes and documentation must be signed by the **student** and co-signed by the supervising provider, indicating they have reviewed and approved of the documentation. All services must be billed by the supervising therapist under their provider account number and must comply with supervision and documentation requirements for physical medicine services.

### Supervising therapist responsibilities

Supervising therapists are responsible for all services provided to injured workers by their **students**. This means they must:

- Ensure that the work **students** perform does not exceed their education, skills, and abilities, nor the supervising therapist's scope of practice,
- Provide supervision to the **student** regardless of what setting care is being rendered in (clinic, hospital, or skilled nursing facility),
- Ensure that all documentation requirements are met,
- Co-sign all documentation for services rendered to injured workers, *and*
- Keep a copy of the private agreement between them and the **student** in accordance with [WAC 296-20-02005](#).

## Payment limits

**Students** won't be directly reimbursed for their time or services.



**Link:** For more information, see [WAC 296-20-015](#).



## Payment policy: Work rehabilitation (WR)

### General information

Work rehabilitation (WR) is a special individualized program to assist a worker in meeting the demands of a specific job using progressive exercise, work simulation tasks, and education. It consists of two intensity levels: work rehabilitation – conditioning (WRC) and work rehabilitation – hardening (WRH).

For general program details, visit our [work rehabilitation website](#). You can also find specific information about the program in our [work rehabilitation standards](#).

### Prior authorization

#### Initial evaluations

Initial evaluations for work rehabilitation programs don't require prior authorization.

#### Work rehabilitation programs

Work rehabilitation programs require a referral from the worker's **attending provider** (AP). For State Fund, utilization review (UR) is also required. For self-insurance, the self-insured employer's representative grants prior authorization.

#### Additional services

Providing separate and additional rehabilitation outpatient physical therapy (PT) or occupational therapy (OT) services to the worker while they're participating in a work rehabilitation program is atypical and must be authorized by the insurer. Documentation must support the clinical necessity of additional services.

#### Program extensions

The insurer must authorize program extensions in advance. Extensions are based on documentation of progress and the worker's ability to benefit from a program extension. Program extensions apply to **1023M**, **1024M**, **97545**, and **97546**. To request a program extension:

- For State Fund claims, use [My L&I](#) to email [WRvisitadditions@Lni.wa.gov](mailto:WRvisitadditions@Lni.wa.gov). Don't send confidential worker information via email. You may also fax the Therapy Services unit at **360-902-5035**.
- For self-insured claims, contact the self-insured employer or their representative.

## Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

Only [L&I-approved work rehabilitation providers](#) will be paid for work rehabilitation services.



**Link:** Visit our website to apply to [become a work rehabilitation provider](#).

## Services that can be billed

### Work rehabilitation evaluation

Service	Code	Details
WR evaluation	<b>1001M</b>	<p>Work rehabilitation – evaluation and plan of care.</p> <p>1 unit = 1 hour</p> <p>Doesn't require prior authorization.</p> <p>Use of this code may be allowed to complete re-evaluations at any point during a work rehabilitation program (limit 6 units total).</p>

### Work rehabilitation – conditioning (WRC)

Service	Code	Details
WRC program, first 2 hours	<b>1023M</b>	<p>Work rehabilitation – conditioning, first 2 hours of treatment per day.</p> <p>1 unit = 1 hour</p> <p>Requires <a href="#">prior authorization</a>.</p> <p>A minimum of 2 hours of treatment per day (2 units) is required; see <a href="#">below</a> for details.</p>
WRC program, each additional hour	<b>1024M</b>	<p>Work rehabilitation – conditioning, each additional hour of treatment per day.</p> <p>1 unit = 1 hour</p> <p>Requires <a href="#">prior authorization</a>.</p>

**Work rehabilitation – hardening (WRH)**

Service	Code	Details
WRH program, first 2 hours	<b>97545</b>	Work rehabilitation – hardening, first 2 hours of treatment per day. 1 unit = 2 hours Requires <a href="#">prior authorization</a> . A minimum of 2 hours of treatment per day (1 unit) is required; see <a href="#">below</a> for details.
WRH program, each additional hour	<b>97546</b>	Work rehabilitation – hardening, each additional hour of treatment per day. 1 unit = 1 hour Requires <a href="#">prior authorization</a> .

**Requirements for billing****Billing portions of an hour using 1001M**

Each unit of **1001M** equals 1 hour of evaluation services. If the worker completes less than 38 minutes of a given hour, round down to the nearest whole number unit. If the worker completes 38 or more minutes, round up to the nearest whole number unit. For example, if the worker is evaluated for 2 hours and 47 minutes, the provider would bill 3 units of **1001M**.

**Billing less than 2 hours of treatment in a day with CPT® 97545 or 1023M**

Services provided for less than 2 hours of total program time (2 units of **1023M** or 1 unit of **97545**) on any day don't meet the work rehabilitation program standards and can't be billed using WR codes. The services must be billed with other physical medicine codes. Failure to complete at least 2 hours of a WR program should be counted as an absence when determining worker compliance with the program.

### Billing portions of an additional hour using CPT® 97546 or 1024M

After completion of the requirements for **97545** or **1023M**, each additional hour is billed using **97546** or local code **1024M**. A full hour is billed as 1 unit at your usual and customary rate, but if the worker completes less than 38 minutes of an hour of program work:

- The charged amount for the incomplete hour of service must be prorated, *and*
- You must bill a line of **97546** or **1024M** at the prorated rate with modifier **-52**.

**Example:** Worker completes 4 hours and 25 minutes of WRH treatment. Billing for that date of service would include 3 lines:

Code	Modifier	Charged amount	Units
<b>97545</b>		Usual and customary	1
<b>97546</b>		Usual and customary	2
<b>97546</b>	<b>-52</b>	42% of usual and customary (completed 25 of 60 minutes)	1

### Billing for services in multidisciplinary programs

Each provider must bill for the number of hours they perform. Both PT and OT providers may bill for the same date of service.

**Examples of billing for services in multidisciplinary programs**

**Example 1: Standard treatment (Work rehab – Hardening)**

**Scenario:** The OT performs treatment that lasts 4 hours. On the same day, the worker is also treated by the PT for 2 hours.

The providers could bill for the 6 hours of services in the following ways:

Billing example A		
PT:	1 unit <b>97545</b>	2 hours
OT:	4 units <b>97546</b>	4 hours
<b>Total hours billed:</b>	<b>6 hours</b>	

Billing example B		
PT:	2 units <b>97546</b>	2 hours
OT:	1 unit <b>97545</b>	2 hours
	+	
	2 units <b>97546</b>	2 hours
<b>Total hours billed:</b>	<b>6 hours</b>	

**Example 2: Standard treatment (Work rehab – Conditioning)**

**Scenario:** The OT performs 1 hour of treatment for a worker. A PT provider then performs an additional 2 hours of treatment.

The providers could bill for the 3 hours of services in the following ways:

Billing example A		
PT:	1 unit <b>1023M</b>	1 hour
	+	
	1 unit <b>1024M</b>	1 hour
OT:	1 unit <b>1023M</b>	1 hour
<b>Total hours billed:</b>	<b>3 hours</b>	

Billing example B		
PT:	2 units <b>1023M</b>	2 hours
OT:	1 unit <b>1024M</b>	1 hour
<b>Total hours billed:</b>	<b>3 hours</b>	

**Example 3: Reduced treatment hours (Work rehab – Conditioning)**

**Scenario:** The PT performs 2 hours of treatment with the worker. The OT performs an additional 1.5 hours of treatment.

The providers could bill for the 3.5 hours of services in the following ways:

Billing example A		
PT:	2 units <b>1023M</b>	2 hours
OT:	1 unit <b>1024M</b>	1 hour
	1 unit <b>1024M</b> (prorated) with modifier <b>-52</b>	30 minutes
<b>Total hours billed:</b>	<b>3.5 hours</b>	

Billing example B		
PT:	1 unit <b>1023M</b>	1 hour
	1 unit <b>1024M</b>	1 hour
OT:	1 unit <b>1023M</b>	1 hour
	1 unit <b>1024M</b> (prorated) with modifier <b>-52</b>	30 minutes
<b>Total hours billed:</b>	<b>3.5 hours</b>	

**Documentation requirements**

Documentation for both WRC and WRH must meet the requirements listed in the [Work Rehabilitation Standards](#). For additional documentation requirements, see [Chapter 2: Information for All Providers](#).

A report is required when billing **1001M**. This report must include any results of tests or measurements performed and/or document the worker’s progress through the program.

If a worker fails to complete the minimum treatment duration for WRC or WRH on a given day, this should be documented as an absence from the program for that day. Services will need to be billed using other CPT® physical medicine codes; billing and documentation requirements for these codes can be found in other sections of this chapter.

## Payment limits

Providers may only bill for the time that services are performed while the worker is in the clinic participating in their program. The reimbursement rates of CPT® **97545** and **97546** and local codes **1023M** and **1024M** account for the fact that some work occurs outside of the time the worker is present (for example, creation of the initial plan of care or documentation of worker progress).

Code	Description	Daily unit limit	Program unit limit	Notes
<b>1001M</b>	Evaluation	None	6 units	May be performed at any time throughout the program.
<b>1023M</b>	Work conditioning, first 2 hours	2 units (2 hours)	80 units	Minimum of 2 units per day.
<b>1024M</b>	Work conditioning, each additional hour	2 units (2 hours)	80 units	Add-on code. Won't be paid as a standalone procedure. Must be billed with <b>1023M</b> .
<b>97545</b>	Work hardening program, first 2 hours	1 unit (2 hours)	40 units	Minimum of 1 unit per day.
<b>97546</b>	Work hardening, each additional hour	6 units (6 hours)	240 units	Add-on code. Won't be paid as a standalone procedure. Must be billed with CPT® <b>97545</b> .



## Payment policy: Wound care

### Prior authorization

#### Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds

If electrical stimulation for chronic wounds is requested for use on an outpatient basis, prior authorization is required using the following criteria:

- Electrical stimulation will be authorized if the wound hasn't improved following 30 days of standard wound therapy, *and*
- In addition to electrical stimulation, standard wound care must continue.



**Note:** In order to pay for electrical stimulation beyond 30 days, licensed medical personnel must document improved wound measurements within the past 30 days.

### Services that can be billed

#### Debridement

Therapists must bill CPT® **97597**, **97598**, or **97602** when performing wound debridement that exceeds what is incidental to a therapy (for example, whirlpool).

Wound dressings and supplies sent home with the patient for self-care may be billed with HCPCS codes appended with local modifier **-1S**.



**Link:** For more information on billing with local modifier **-1S**, see the Surgical dressings for home use section (Requirements for billing and Payment limits) of [Chapter 7: Durable Medical Equipment \(DME\) and Supplies](#) and [Appendix B: Modifiers](#).

### Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds

Electrical stimulation passes electric currents through a wound to accelerate wound healing. Electrical stimulation is covered for the following chronic wound indications:

- Stage III and IV pressure ulcers,
- Arterial ulcers,
- Diabetic ulcers,
- Venous stasis ulcers.

To bill for electrical stimulation for chronic wounds, use HCPCS code **G0281**.



**Link:** For more information, see the [Electrical Stimulation for Chronic Wounds](#) coverage decision.

## Requirements for billing

### Debridement

When performing wound debridement that exceeds what is incidental to a therapy (for example, whirlpool), therapists must bill CPT® **97597**, **97598**, or **97602**.

### Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds

In order to pay for electrical stimulation beyond 30 days, licensed medical personnel must document improved wound measurements within the past 30 days.

## Payment limits

### Debridement

Wound dressings and supplies used in the office are **bundled** and aren't payable separately.



## Links to related topics

If you're looking for more information about...	Then see...
<b>Administrative rules</b> for naturopathic physicians	<a href="#">Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-23-205</a>
<b>Administrative rules</b> for physical medicine	<a href="#">Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-21-290</a>
<b>Administrative rules</b> for treatment requiring prior authorization	<a href="#">WAC 296-20-03001(1)</a>
<b>Becoming an Chiropractic Consultant</b>	<a href="#">Become a Chiropractic Consultant on L&amp;I's website</a>
<b>Becoming an L&amp;I Provider</b>	<a href="#">Become A Provider on L&amp;I's website</a>
<b>Billing</b> instructions and forms	<a href="#">Chapter 2: Information for All Providers</a>
<b>Chiropractic Services</b> including Industrial Insurance Chiropractic Advisory Committee, practice, training, consultation resources	<a href="#">IICAC website</a>
<b>Dynamic Spinal Visualization</b> coverage decision	<a href="#">Dynamic Spinal Visualization coverage decision</a>
<b>Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds</b>	<a href="#">Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds</a>
<b>Fee schedules</b> for all healthcare professional services	<a href="#">Fee schedules on L&amp;I's website</a>
<b>Keeping of records</b>	<a href="#">WAC 296-20-02005</a>
<b>L&amp;I's coverage decision for Chronic Migraine and Chronic Tension-type Headaches</b>	<a href="#">Chronic migraine headache coverage decision</a>

If you're looking for more information about...	Then see...
<b>L&amp;I's coverage decision for Cryotherapy Devices with or without Compression</b>	<a href="#">Cryotherapy devices with or without compression coverage decision</a>
<b>L&amp;I's coverage decision for low level laser therapy</b>	<a href="#">Low level laser therapy coverage decision</a>
<b>L&amp;I's coverage decision for Non-vasopneumatic Devices without a Cryotherapy Component</b>	<a href="#">Non-vasopneumatic devices without cryotherapy component coverage decision</a>
L&I's general policies and rules for <b>PT, OT, and massage therapy</b>	<a href="#">PT, OT, and massage rules on L&amp;I's website</a>
<b>Manipulation/ Manual therapy treatment of chronic tension-type headache</b> coverage decision	<a href="#">Chronic Migraine and Chronic Tension-type Headache coverage decision</a>
<b>Massage therapy</b> administrative rules	<a href="#">WAC 296-23-250</a>
<b>Occupational therapy</b> administrative rules	<a href="#">WAC 296-23-230</a>
Payment policies for <b>case management services</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 9: Evaluation and Management (E/M)</a>
Payment Policies for <b>diagnostic X-ray services</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 8: Electrodiagnostics and Radiology</a>
Payment policies for <b>durable medical equipment (DME) and supplies</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 7: Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Supplies</a>
Payment Policies for <b>Evaluation and Management (E&amp;M) and case management services</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 9: Evaluation and Management (E/M)</a>
Payment policies for <b>impairment ratings and IMEs</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 11: Impairment Rating Services and Independent Medical Exams (IMEs)</a>

If you're looking for more information about...	Then see...
Payment Policies for <b>mental health services</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 17: Mental Health and Behavioral Health Interventions (BHI)</a>
Payment policies for <b>supplies</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 7: Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Supplies</a>
Payment policies for <b>supplies, materials, and bundled services</b>	<a href="#">Chapter 7: Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Supplies</a>
<b>Physical Medicine Progress Report Form</b>	<a href="#">Form F245-453-000</a>
<b>Physical therapy</b> administrative rules	<a href="#">WAC 296-23-220</a>
<b>Powered traction devices</b> for intervertebral decompression	<a href="#">Powered traction devices for intervertebral decompression</a>
<b>TENS coverage decision</b>	<a href="#">State Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) published TENS decision</a>
<b>Work rehabilitation program</b> at L&I	<b>Program reviewer:</b> <a href="mailto:therapy@lni.wa.gov">therapy@lni.wa.gov</a> <a href="#">Work Rehabilitation on L&amp;I's website</a>

## Need more help?

Contact Provider Hotline with billing and authorization questions by emailing [PHL@lni.wa.gov](mailto:PHL@lni.wa.gov) or calling **1-800-848-0811** between 8 am and 12 pm PT Monday through Friday.