



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.
Commissioner

CHINAZO CUNNINGHAM, MD
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mainstream Medicaid Managed Care Plans, Health and Recovery Plans (HARPs), HIV Special Needs Plans (HIV SNPs), and Medicaid Advantage Plus (MAP) Plans

FROM: New York State (NYS) Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS)

DATE: April 18, 2024

SUBJECT: Mandated Rate Update: APG Rate Changes for Psychotherapy (Group and Family Group) and Peer Support Services

Dear Health Plan Administrators,

Effective January 1, 2024 and July 1, 2024 the Psychotherapy (Group and Family Group) and Peer Support service rates will be adjusted, consistent with the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Enacted State Budget, as outlined below. This letter is being sent to alert Mainstream Medicaid Managed Care Plans, Health and Recovery Plans, HIV Special Needs Plans, and Medicaid Advantage Plus Plans (collectively referred to as "MMCPs" herein) of the adjustments to ensure compliance with the statutorily required payment of government rates.

Please refer to the CPT Procedure Weight and Rate Schedule (Rows 30-32) on the [OMH Fiscal/Billing Resources](#) page and the [OASAS Ambulatory Providers](#) page for the services below.

A. Effective January 1, 2024: APG Rate Updates for OMH Mental Health Outpatient Treatment and Rehabilitative Services (MHOTRS) Programs Only

1. Psychotherapy - Group 1 hour (Procedure Code: 90853): service weight was temporarily increased by 50%.
2. Psychotherapy - Family Group 1 hour (Procedure Code: 90849): service weight will increase by 50%.
3. Self-help/peer services - Group 15 minutes (H0038-HQ): service weight will increase by 50%.

B. Effective July 1, 2024: APG Rate Updates for OMH MHOTRS and OASAS Programs

1. Psychotherapy - Group 1 hour (Procedure Code: 90853)
 - a. The service weight for OASAS programs will increase by 30%, and
 - b. The service weight increment for OMH MHOTRS will be adjusted from 50% to 30% of the original weight (.3207) that was in effect prior to January 2024. This will align OMH programs' service weight with OASAS programs and broaden the number of OMH and OASAS providers eligible to receive the enhancement for group psychotherapy.

2. Psychotherapy - Family Group 1 hour (Procedure Code: 90849): service weight will increase by 50% for OASAS programs and will continue for OMH MHOTRS programs.
3. Self-help/peer services - Group 15 minutes (H0038-HQ): service weight continues to receive the 50% increase for OMH MHOTRS Programs only. OASAS only allows individual peer services and, thus, does not utilize the Self-help/peer services group modifier.
4. For both OMH and OASAS programs: Billing 90853 and 90849 with modifiers AF (psychiatrist), AG (physician), or SA (psychiatric nurse practitioner) will continue to increase the weight for the group service by an additional 20%.
5. For OASAS programs only: The provider will be required to code one of the three modifiers listed above or one of the following three modifiers; AH (clinical psychologist), AJ (clinical social worker), or HO (master's level), when submitting claims for 90853 or 90849 in order to receive the enhancements mentioned in #1 and #2 above.

Note: Failure by an OASAS provider to code one of these six (6) modifiers with 90853 or 90849 will result in a payment based on a weight of .3207 without any enhancements.

NOTE: Procedure Code H0005, Alcohol and/or drug services - group counseling by a clinician, is used for all group services provided by non-licensed staff in OASAS programs, and its APG weight remains unchanged at .3207.

The table below explains the rate adjustments outlined above. Additionally, all of these changes have been, or will be, built into the applicable version of the 3M APG grouper-pricer.

OMH and OASAS APG Weight Adjustments for Psychotherapy (Group and Family Group) and Peer Support Group Services						
Procedure Code	Service Name	OMH			OASAS	
		Before 1/1/2024	Effective 1/1/2024	Effective 7/1/2024	Before 7/1/2024	Effective 7/1/2024
90853 ^[1]	Psychotherapy - Group 1 hour	.3207	.4811	.4169	.3207	.4169
90849 ^[1]	Psychotherapy - Family Group 1 hour	.3207	.4811	.4811	.3207	.4811
H0038-HQ	Self-help/peer services - Group 15 minutes	.0414	.0621	.0621	NA	NA
H0005	Alcohol and/or drug services; group counseling by a clinician	N/A	N/A	N/A	.3207	.3207

Note:
 1. For additional requirements or enhancements regarding modifiers, see B.4 and B.5 above.

Please note that this document is only being transmitted electronically. No hard copy will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions regarding these rate changes, please contact OMH Managed Care at 518-402-2822 or BHO@omh.ny.gov.