



## Office of Mental Health

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** NYS Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MMCPs), HIV Special-Needs Plans (HIV SNPs), and Health and Recovery Plans (HARPs)

**FROM:** New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH)

**DATE:** March 26, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Telephonic Billing Modifiers for Mental Health (MH) Services Clarification

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The purpose of this memo is to clarify the Use of Telemental Health for People Affected by the Disaster Emergency guidance, released on March 11, 2020<sup>1</sup>, to notify Plans of the expansion of telemental health in response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19). OMH-issued telemental health guidance remains in effect and can be found on the [OMH guidance webpage](#).

#### **For Clarification:**

Plans should be advised by this memo that all previously issued OMH telemental health billing guidance is applicable to both Fee-For-Service (FFS) and Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) enrollees during, but not to exceed, the declared disaster emergency period<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, Plans must not put any further requirements in place, beyond those outlined in OMH guidance. This includes, but is not limited to, billing procedures (e.g. revenue codes) and policies which would increase the barriers to access MH services and/or place undue burden on providers billing telemental health during this period.

Additionally, there has been a high volume of requests for when and how to differentiate between the appropriate use of telehealth modifiers GT and 95 (definitions included below).

#### **Definitions and Applicability:**

1. Modifier 95 – Used for reporting synchronous (real-time) telemedicine services when appended by modifier 95. Procedures involve electronic communication using interactive telecommunications equipment that includes at a minimum, audio and

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<sup>1</sup> This was transmitted to Plans on March 16, 2020 and is available for use here <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/guidance/>.

<sup>2</sup> Other payers, such as Medicare, may require additional information/guidance.

video. However, during the declared disaster period the video requirements are not considered mandatory and this modifier can be used for telephonically delivered services without video. The list of CPT codes can be found in the appendix.

2. Modifier GT – Used for interactive audio and video telecommunications systems. As with modifier 95, during the declared disaster period, the video requirements are not considered mandatory and this modifier can be used for telephonically delivered services without video. CPT codes that are not listed in the appendix below will need to use GT modifier, for example H2011, S9484, S9485, H2010, 90849, 90853, 96110, 96112, 96113, and all HCPCS codes.

Any questions regarding this memo may be directed to the OMH Division of Managed Care: [bho@omh.ny.gov](mailto:bho@omh.ny.gov).

## Appendix

The table below (as listed in Appendix P of the AMA's CPT Professional Edition 2019 Codebook) provides a summary of CPT codes<sup>3</sup> that may be used for telemental health services when appended by modifier 95.

90791 ✓	93298	99242
90792 ✓	93299	99243
90832 ✓	96040	99244
90833 ✓	96116	99245
90834 ✓	96150	99251
90836 ✓	96151	99252
90837	96152	99253
90838	96153	99254
90845	96154	99255
90846 ✓	97802	99307
90847 ✓	97803	99308
90863	97804	99309
90951	98960	99310
90952	98961	99354
90954	98962	99355
90955	99201 ✓	99406 ✓
90957	99202 ✓	99407 ✓
90958	99203 ✓	99408
90960	99204 ✓	99409
90961	99205 ✓	99495
92227	99212 ✓	99496
92228	99213 ✓	
93228	99214 ✓	
93229	99215 ✓	
93268	99231	
93270	99232	
93271	99233	
93272	99241	

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<sup>3</sup> CPT codes with check marks are for services that may be provided by OMH licensed or designated programs. However, all CPT codes in the appendix must use modifier 95. CPT codes that are not listed above will need to use GT modifier. A full crosswalk of CPT code and telemental health modifier for OMH licensed or designated programs can be found here <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/guidance/covid-19-telehealth-modifiers.xlsx>.