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In 2011, NASW members were first introduced to the new codes when they participated in a national psychotherapy survey sponsored by the American Medical Association and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to determine work values for the new and revised psychotherapy codes. Work values consist of how much time, mental effort, skills, judgment, and stress it takes to perform a psychotherapy service.

The new and revised codes better reflect psychotherapy services delivered in the 21st century. Some of the codes remain the same such as family therapy, psychoanalysis, and hypnotherapy. Definitions of psychotherapy services have also been revised and two new services are introduced: psychotherapy for crisis and interactive complexity.

New and Revised Definitions of Services
In addition to new psychotherapy codes, there are new and revised definitions of psychotherapy services.

- **PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION:** An integrated biopsychosocial assessment, including history, mental status, and recommendations.

- **PSYCHOTHERAPY:** The treatment of mental illness and behavioral disturbances in which the physician or other qualified health care professional, through definitive therapeutic communication, attempts to alleviate the emotional disturbances, reverse or change maladaptive patterns of behavior, and encourage personality growth and development.
• INTERACTIVE COMPLEXITY. Specific communication factors that complicate the delivery of a psychiatric procedure. Common factors include more difficult communications with discordant or emotional family members and engagement of young and verbally undeveloped or impaired patients. Typical patients are those who have third parties, such as parents, guardians, other family members, interpreters, language translators, agencies, court officers, or schools involved in their psychiatric care.

• PSYCHOTHERAPY FOR CRISIS. An urgent assessment and history of a crisis state, a mental status exam, and a disposition.

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Deleted Codes
The following codes have been deleted as of 2013.
90801 Psychiatric diagnostic interview examination.
90802 Interactive psychiatric diagnostic interview using play equipment, physical devices, language interpreter, or other mechanisms of communication.
90804 Individual psychotherapy, insight oriented, behavior modifying and/or supportive, in an office or outpatient facility, approximately 20 to 30 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90806 Individual psychotherapy, insight oriented, behavior modifying and/or supportive in an office or outpatient facility, approximately 45 to 50 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90808 Individual psychotherapy, insight oriented, behavior modifying and/or supportive in an office or outpatient facility, approximately 75 to 80 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90810 Individual psychotherapy, interactive, physical devices, language interpreter, or other mechanisms of nonverbal communication in an office or outpatient facility, approximately 20 to 30 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90812 Individual psychotherapy, interactive, using play equipment, physical devices, language interpreter, or other mechanisms of nonverbal communication in an office or outpatient facility, approximately 45 to 50 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90814 Individual psychotherapy, interactive, using play equipment, physical devices, language interpreter, or other mechanisms of nonverbal communication in an office or outpatient facility, approximately 75 to 80 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90816 Individual psychotherapy, insight oriented, behavior modifying and/or support, in an inpatient hospital, partial hospital or residential care setting, approximately 20 to 30 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90818 Individual psychotherapy, insight oriented, behavior modifying and/or supportive in an inpatient hospital, partial hospital or residential care setting, approximately 45 to 50 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90820 Individual psychotherapy, insight oriented, behavior modifying and/or supportive in a residential care setting, approximately 75 to 80 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90822 Individual psychotherapy, interactive, using play equipment, physical devices, language interpreter, or other mechanisms of communication in an inpatient hospital, partial hospital or residential care setting, approximately 20 to 30 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90824 Individual psychotherapy, interactive, using play equipment, physical devices, language interpreter, or other mechanisms of communication in an inpatient hospital, partial hospital or residential care setting, approximately 45 to 50 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90826 Individual psychotherapy, interactive, using play equipment, physical devices, language interpreter, or other mechanisms of nonverbal communication in an inpatient hospital, partial hospital, or residential care setting, approximately 45 to 50 minutes face-to-face with patient.
90828 Individual psychotherapy, interactive, using play equipment, physical devices, language interpreter, or other mechanism of nonverbal communication in an inpatient hospital, partial hospital or residential care setting, approximately 75 to 80 minutes face-to-face with the patient.
90830 Interactive group psychotherapy.
90832 Family psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90834 Family psychotherapy (without the patient present).
90836 Family psychotherapy (joint family group psychotherapy).
90838 Psychotherapy, multiple-family group psychotherapy.
90840 Family psychotherapy (group psychotherapy). (other than of a multiple-family group).
90842 Family psychotherapy (without the patient present).
90844 Group psychotherapy (joint group psychotherapy). with the patient present).
90846 Psychotherapy (group psychotherapy). with the patient present).
90848 Family psychotherapy (joint family group psychotherapy).
90850 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90852 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90854 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90856 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90858 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90860 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90862 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90864 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90866 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90868 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90870 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90872 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90874 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90876 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90878 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90880 Hypnotherapy.
90882 Hypnotherapy.
90884 Hypnotherapy.
90886 Hypnotherapy.
90888 Hypnotherapy.
90890 Preparation of report of patient's psychiatric status, history, treatment, or progress (other than for legal or consultative purposes) for other physicians, agencies, or insurance carriers.

New Codes for Individual Psychotherapy
Several new codes have been developed and some codes replace those formerly used for former individual psychotherapy services. These are for face-to-face services and include all settings such as outpatient office, inpatient hospital, or partial hospitalization, residential care, and assisted living facility. The psychotherapy session can be with a patient and/or family member.

90791 Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview.
90832 Psychotherapy, 30 minutes with patient and/or family member.
90834 Psychotherapy, 45 minutes with patient and/or family member.
90836 Psychotherapy, 60 minutes with patient and/or family member.
• INTERACTIVE COMPLEXITY. Specific communication factors that complicate the delivery of a psychiatric procedure. Common factors include more difficult communications with dissociative or emotional family members and engagement of young and verbally undeveloped or impaired patients. Typical patients are those who have third parties, such as parents, guardians, relatives, or members of the school. This reduces the effectiveness of the procedure, and may require compensatory measures such as repetition, training, or the use of interpreters. Such factors include developmental delay, communication disorders, or other mechanisms of nonverbal communication, such as physical devices, language interpreters, or other mechanisms of nonverbal communication (including play) that are used to determine the work to be performed.

• PSYCHOTHERAPY FOR CRISIS. An urgent assessment and history of a crisis state, a mental status exam, and a disposition.

Deleted Codes

The following codes have been deleted as of 2013.

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90857 Interactive group psychotherapy.

Codes Without Changes In Numbers or Descriptors

The following codes remain without changes in code numbers and descriptors. There were changes in the vignettes which describe the services. Vignettes are used in psychotherapy surveys to describe the patient’s symptoms which are used to determine the work to be performed.

90845 Psychoanalysis.
90846 Family psychotherapy (without the patient present).
90847 Family psychotherapy (conjoint psychotherapy, with the patient present).
90849 Multiple-family group psychotherapy.
90853 Group psychotherapy (other than of a multiple-family group).
90880 Hypnotherapy.
90889 Preparation of report of patient’s psychiatric status, history, treatment, or progress (other than for legal or consultative purposes) for other physicians, agencies, or insurance carriers.

New Codes for Individual Psychotherapy

Several new codes have been developed and some codes have been changed to better reflect the new and revised psychotherapy services delivered in the 21st century.
NASW continues to advocate for clinical social workers in the coding process through the American Medical Association CPT Editorial Panel and will inform its members of any additional changes.

### Additional New Codes

**90785**  
Interactive complexity (Use only as an add-on code with the following new and existing psychotherapy codes: 90791, 90832, 90834, 90837, and 90853).

**90839**  
Psychotherapy for crisis; first 60 minutes.

**90840**  
Psychotherapy for crisis; each additional 30 minutes.

For 2013, only the family of psychotherapy codes has been revised. There are no changes in the Health and Behavior Assessment and Intervention Codes or the Team Conference Codes used by clinical social workers. A crosswalk of the new and revised psychotherapy codes related to clinical social workers is located at the end of this document.

Clinical social workers who use deleted psychotherapy codes in 2013 will receive claim denials resulting in non-payment of psychotherapy services. NASW continues to advocate for clinical social workers in the coding process through the American Medical Association CPT Editorial Panel and will inform its members of any additional changes.

### Resources


### Crosswalk of 2013 Psychotherapy Codes for Clinical Social Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Codes</th>
<th>New Codes</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>90801</td>
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<tr>
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<td>90832 + 90785 (add-on)</td>
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<tr>
<td>90828</td>
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