



## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 243I-MC-FFS

**DATE:** March 9, 2023

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Behavioral Health Service Providers

**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Iowa Medicaid

**RE:** Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Code Update

**EFFECTIVE:** April 1, 2023

**\*\*\*This informational letter (IL) replaces IL 1980-MC-FFS.\*\*\***

This letter is intended to clarify coding and FFS reimbursement for ABA services.

The codes **97155**, **97157** and **97158** have been added for use.

Coverage of ABA includes:

**Behavioral identification assessment (97151)** – administered by a physician or other qualified healthcare professional (QHP), each 15 minutes of the physician’s or other QHP’s time face-to-face with patient and/or guardian(s)/caregiver(s) administering assessments and discussing findings and recommendations, and non-face-to-face analyzing past data, scoring/interpreting the assessment, and preparing the report/treatment plan.

**Observational behavioral follow up assessment (97152)** – behavior identification supporting assessment, administered by one technician under the direction of a physician or other QHP, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes.

**Adaptive behavior treatment (97153 – individual)** – adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician under the direction of a physician or other QHP, face-to-face with one patient, each 15 minutes; **(97154 – group)** – group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician under the direction of a physician or other QHP, face-to-face with two or more patients, each 15 minutes.

**Adaptive behavior treatment (97155)** – with protocol modification administered by physician or other QHP, which may include simultaneous direction of technician, face-to-face with one patient, each 15 minutes.

**Family adaptive behavior treatment guidance (97156)** – administered by physician or other QHP (with or without the patient present), face-to-face with guardian(s)/caregiver(s), each 15 minutes.

**Multiple family group adaptive behavior treatment guidance (97157)** – administered by a physician or other QHP (without the patient present), face-to-face with multiple sets of guardians/caregivers, each 15 minutes.

**Group adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification (97158)** – administered by physician or other QHP face-to-face with multiple patients, each 15 minutes.

| Service Code | Unit   | Modifier | Description   | Rate effective 04/01/23 |
|--------------|--------|----------|---|-------------------------|
| 97151        | 15 min | HO, HP   | behavior identification assessment by QHP                 | \$34.03                 |
| 97152        | 15 min | HO, HP   | behavior identification assessment by QHP                 | \$34.03                 |
| 97152        | 15 min | HN       | behavior identification assessment by technician          | \$16.34                 |
| 97153        | 15 min | HN       | adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, by technician    | \$16.34                 |
| 97153        | 15 min | HO, HP   | adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, by QHP           | \$27.23                 |
| 97154        | 15 min | HN       | group adaptive behavior by protocol by technician         | \$16.34                 |
| 97154        | 15 min | HO, HP   | group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, by QHP     | \$27.23                 |
| 97155        | 15 min | HO, HP   | adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification    | \$35.06                 |
| 97156        | 15 min | HN       | family adaptive behavior treatment guidance by technician | \$16.34                 |
| 97156        | 15 min | HO, HP   | family adaptive behavior treatment guidance by QHP        | \$27.23                 |

|       |        |        |  |         |
|-------|--------|--------|--|---------|
| 97157 | 15 min | HO     | multiple family group adaptive behavioral treatment guidance administered by QHP | \$7.99  |
| 97157 | 15 min | HP     | multiple family group adaptive behavioral treatment guidance administered by QHP | \$8.48  |
| 97158 | 15 min | HO     | group adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by QHP | \$7.99  |
| 97158 | 15 min | HP     | group adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by QHP | \$8.48  |
| G9012 | 15 min | HO, HP | other specified case management service  | \$27.23 |

| Modifier | Modifier Description   |
|----------|--|
| HP       | doctoral level (board-certified behavior analyst)  |
| HO       | master's degree level (board-certified behavior analyst)                                   |
| HN       | assistant behavior analyst, non-certified support staff, or registered behavior technician |

If you have questions, please contact Iowa Medicaid Provider Services or the appropriate MCO:

**Iowa Medicaid Provider Services for FFS members:**

- Provider services: 1-800-338-7909
- Provider email: [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us)

**Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.:**

- Provider services: 1-800-454-3730
- Provider email: [iowamedicaid@amerigroup.com](mailto:iowamedicaid@amerigroup.com)
- Website: <https://providers.amerigroup.com/ia>

**Iowa Total Care:**

- Provider services: 1-833-404-1061
- Provider email: Providers may send email using their account on the ITC website.
- Website: <https://www.iowatotalcare.com>