CODING FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

With the onset of COVID-19, the Federal Government has recommended that health care professionals utilize telemedicine technologies for patient visits and has provided flexibility to do so without fear of HIPAA violations. Psychiatric outpatient services are included in these recommendations.

The following psychiatric services are approved for telemedicine services by using the 95 modifier appended to the code:

- 90785  Psychiatric interactive complexity
- 90791, 90792  Psychiatric diagnostic services
- 90832,33,34,36,37,38  Psychotherapy services
- 90839,40  Crisis services
- 90845  Psychoanalysis
- 90846,47  Family therapy services
- 96116  Neurobehavioral status examination
- 99201-99205  Outpatient new patient visit
- 99211-99215  Office outpatient E/M visit
- 99231-99233  Subsequent hospital care
- 99354-55  Prolonged service outpatient visit
- 99356-57  Prolonged service inpatient

Examples of coding for telemedicine services:

- Initial Outpatient Visit: 99205.95
- Established Outpatient: Visit 99214.95
- Psychiatric Evaluation: 90792.95
- Psychotherapy with E/M: 99213.95, 90833.95

The CPT Definition of Telemedicine:

Synchronous Telemedicine Service Rendered Via a Real-Time Interactive Audio and Video Telecommunications System: Synchronous telemedicine service is defined as a **real-time**
interaction between a physician or other qualified health care professional and a patient who is located at a distant site from the physician or other qualified health care professional. The totality of the communication of information exchanged between the physician or other qualified health care professional and the patient during the course of the synchronous telemedicine service must be of an amount and nature that would be sufficient to meet the key components and/or requirements of the same service when rendered via a face-to-face interaction. Modifier 95 may only be appended to the services listed in Appendix P. Appendix P is the list of CPT codes for services that are typically performed face-to-face but may be rendered via a real-time (synchronous) interactive audio and video telecommunications system.

(CPT Professional Edition 2020, Appendix P, pg. 896)

-The AACAP Coding Committee

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