

QRTips

June 2016

Crisis Intervention Reminders

Crisis Intervention (CPT 90899)

Crisis Intervention is a service, lasting less than 24 hours, to or on behalf of a child for a condition that requires more timely response than a regularly scheduled visit. Service activities include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: assessment, collateral and therapy.

A crisis is an unplanned event that results from the individual's need for immediate service intervention which, if untreated, presents an imminent threat to the patient or others. This may include, but is not limited to assessment, evaluation, collateral and therapy. This code is used only when services provided were not described in another CPT code.

- Crisis Intervention Services may either be face-to-face or by telephone with the child or the child's Significant Support Person and may be provided anywhere in the community.
- The maximum claimable time for Crisis Intervention in a 24-hour period is eight hours (480 minutes) per client.
- County and contract programs should coordinate billings to ensure that the 8 hours limit is not exceeded.
- Progress should contain these elements: A description of the crisis that necessitates an immediate response to the unplanned activity that supports medical necessity (i.e. suicidal ideation, homicidal ideation, gravely disabled), the assessment (i.e. gathering of information and risk assessment), Mental Status Exam, Interventions Diagnosis and Disposition.

Activities that are billable to Medi-Cal for a crisis intervention include:

- A face-to-face assessment of the client and the use of clinical interventions to ameliorate the crisis event.
- Consulting with hospital staff/family members/significant support persons/law enforcement for the purpose of assessment and arriving at a diagnosis and disposition.
- Telephone calls to hospitals to locate a bed and coordinate placement of the client.
- Completing the "Application for Assessment, Evaluation, and Crisis Intervention or Placement for Evaluation and Treatment" form.

Some tasks that would not be billable to Medi-Cal:

- Escorting (sitting with the client) while waiting for a bed to be available.
- A review of documentation/clinical records.

Crisis Psychotherapy 90839 (Clinicians must be licensed or license eligible (waivered) to use the 90839 CPT code)

Crisis Psychotherapy is considered "an urgent assessment and history of a crisis state, a mental status exam, and a disposition. The treatment includes psychotherapy, mobilization of resources to defuse the crisis and restore safety, and implementation of psychotherapeutic intervention to minimize the potential for psychological trauma. The presenting problem is typically life threatening or complex and requires immediate attention to a patient in high distress. Services must be conducted face-to-face with the client.

Note: If the client requires hospitalization or the provider needs to complete 5150 paperwork, contact an outside provider regarding beds/placement, etc., then this code would not be the proper code to select. In a crisis assessment involving those types of activities, 90899 Crisis Intervention would be the accurate code to indicate

Discontinuing a 5150/5585 hold

- ✚ Must be both licensed and LPS designated mental health staff in order to break a hold.