

Athletic Training Evaluation Coding

This overview is intended to describe current coding for Athletic Training Evaluation Codes and Re-evaluation Codes, and to assist with the accurate selection of codes.

On January 1, 2017, the initially established Athletic Training Evaluation (97005) and Re-evaluation Codes (97006) that were established by the AMA's CPT Coding Panel were replaced by a new tiered system of codes that are based upon complexity. These changes were aligned with changes that were made to Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Evaluation Codes. The coding descriptions are consistent with Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy with the exception of the actual code number.

The currently utilized Athletic Training Evaluation and Re-evaluation codes follow:

- 97169 Athletic Training Evaluation, low complexity
- 97170 Athletic Training Evaluation, moderate complexity
- 97171 Athletic Training Evaluation, high complexity
- 97172 Athletic Training Re-evaluation

Accurately Coding for Athletic Training Evaluations: A Quick Reference Guide

Athletic Training evaluations require four components in selecting the correct evaluation level—History and Physical Activity Profile, Examination, Clinical Decision Making and Development of Plan of Care.

The content that follows will help the athletic training clinician and/or their coding department as they decide which level of complexity to bill for.

REQUIRED COMPONENTS

1. History and Physical Activity Profile

	Low	Moderate	High
CPT® Codes	97169	97170	97171
No Co-morbidities	X		
1-2 Co-morbidities		X	
3+ Co-morbidities			X

2. Examination of body structures, physical activity and/or participation deficiencies

	Low	Moderate	High
CPT® Codes	97169	97170	97171
Addressing a total of 1-2 elements	X		
Addressing a total of 3		X	
Addressing a total of 4 or more elements			X

3. Clinical Decision Making using standardized patient assessment instrument and/or measurable assessment of functional outcome

	Low	Moderate	High
CPT® Codes	97169	97170	97171
Development of plan of care	low	moderate	high

ADDITIONAL GUIDING FACTORS

Coordination, consultation, and collaboration of care with physicians, other qualified health care professionals, or agencies is provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the needs of the patient, family, and/or other caregivers

CODING SELECTION GUIDELINE

The level of coding must be determined specifically for each of the three components. The level is most likely determined after completion of the evaluation. The correct code to bill is the lowest of the three. Providers must remember they are ethically required to choose and report the correct code.

ATHLETIC TRAINING RE-EVALUATION

An additional new code, 97172, replaces 97005 for Athletic Training Re-evaluation.

CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.