

ABA Billing Guidance

1. Payment is available only for allowable activities that are provided by a qualified provider in accordance with an approved ISP. Services other than assessment (97151, 97152 and 0362T) must be service authorized by the FFS contractor or MCO.
2. CPT codes requiring a qualified healthcare professional (QHP) must be provided by a LBA or LMHP. An LABA may also act as a qualified healthcare professional as determined by the supervising LBA in accordance with 18VAC85-150-120. An LMHP-R, LMHP-RP or LMHP-S who has completed education and training in ABA may provide these services under the supervising LMHP.
3. CPT codes for services provided by a technician must be provided by one of the following:
 - a) An LMHP-R, LMHP-RP or LMHP-S under supervision as defined by the applicable Virginia Health Regulatory Board
 - b) An LABA under the supervision of a LBA
 - c) Personnel under the supervision of a LBA or LABA in accordance with 18VAC85-150-10 et seq. of the Virginia Board of Medicine regulations.
 - d) Personnel under the supervision of a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in accordance with §54.1-3614.
 - e) An LBA or LMHP acting as the technician.
4. Services must be billed using the appropriate modifier for the professional providing the service:

Staff	Modifier
LABA	HN
LBA	HO
LMHP	TF

5. Assessment codes 97151, 97152 and 0362T may only be billed as part of the initial assessment.
6. Care coordination, data analysis and treatment plan preparation activities provided by the LBA, LMHP or LABA without the youth present may be billed under 97151 at the time of the initial assessment.
7. To bill for time spent by the QHP to review data, modify the treatment protocol and provide additional care coordination after the initial assessment, the QHP must provide a face to face service with the youth on the same calendar day and bill under 97155.

8. For Group Treatment (97154 and 97158):
 - a) Providers may bill 97154 and 97158 for youth in the same group depending on whether the youth has an assigned one to one technician during group treatment.
 - b) Providers must use 97158 to bill for youth in the group with an assigned one to one technician during group treatment. Providers may not bill an additional technician level code when billing 97158 or 97154.
 - c) With the exception of LMHPs and LBAs acting as a technician, on-site oversight of a LBA is required for billing 97154.
 - d) The total group size may not exceed five youth unless the LBA, LABA or LMHP documents justification for larger group sizes.
9. Group Family Treatment (97157) may not exceed five caregivers unless the LBA, LABA or LMHP documents justification for larger group sizes.
10. It is expected that the team-based codes 0373T and 0362T will be utilized only when medically necessary where there is documented harm to self and others by the youth. Team-based treatment codes are expected to be for a short duration with the frequency of treatment tapering to individual treatment over time as the youth's treatment goals are met. The LBA, LABA or LMHP does not need to be present the entire time when billing team-based codes but must be on-site, immediately available and interruptible to provide assistance and direction. Billing for 0362T and 0373T requires four criteria to be met. The assessment or treatment must be:
 - a) administered by a QHP who is on site;
 - b) with the assistance of two or more technicians;
 - c) for a youth who exhibits destructive behavior; and,
 - d) completed in an environment that is customized to the youth's behavior. Customized means that the environment is configured to safely conduct a functional analysis of destructive behavior (0362T) or treatment for that behavior (0373T).
11. If two technicians are required for treatment and the LBA is not required to be on-site, the provider must document the reason why two technicians are required in the ISP and bill 97153 for each technician. The reasons for the two technicians and anticipated duration of treatment must be documented in the ISP submitted to the MCO as part of the service authorization.
12. The following billing code combinations may be billed at the same time:
 - a) 97152 may be billed at the same time as 97151 (with the exception of 97152 HN together with 97151 HN).

- b) 97153 may be billed at the same time as 97155 (with the exception of 97153 HN together with 97155 HN).
- c) 97154 and 97158 may be billed at the same time for different youth in the same group (professional level modifier must be identical).
- d) 97153 may be billed at the same time for two technicians when documented in the ISP that has been service authorized by the MCO.
- e) Services provided with a youth can be billed at the same time as family and group family training if the services are provided by two different qualified staff members (i.e. one staff with the youth and one staff with the family/caregiver).

For additional information refer to the ARTS/MHS Doing Business Spreadsheet <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/for-providers/behavioral-health/training-and-resources/>.

13. Coverage of services delivered by telemedicine are described in the “Telehealth Services Supplement”. MCO contracted providers should consult with the contracted MCOs for their specific policies and requirements for telehealth.

Billing Code	Unit	Description	Provider Qualifications
97151 and staff modifier	per 15 min	Behavior identification assessment, administered by a physician or other qualified healthcare professional, each 15 minutes of the physician’s or other qualified healthcare professional’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.	LBA/LMHP ¹ /LABA ²
97152 and staff modifier as appropriate	per 15 min	Behavior identification supporting assessment, administered by one technician under the direction of a physician or other qualified healthcare professional, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minute.	Qualified staff
97153 and staff modifier as appropriate	per 15 min	Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician under the direction of a physician or other qualified healthcare professional, face-to-face with one patient, each 15 minutes.	Qualified staff
97154 and staff	per 15 min	Group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician under the direction of a physician or other qualified healthcare	Qualified staff

modifier as appropriate		professional, face-to-face with two or more patients, each 15 minutes.	
97155 and staff modifier	per 15 min	Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional, which may include simultaneous direction of technician, face-to-face with one patient, each 15 minutes.	LBA/LMHP ¹ /LABA ² May also include technician and/or caregiver. (technician billed separately)
97156 and staff modifier	per 15 min	Family adaptive behavior treatment guidance, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional (with or without the patient present), face-to-face with guardian(s)/caregiver(s), each 15 minutes.	LBA/LMHP ¹ /LABA ²
97157 and staff modifier	per 15 min	Multiple-family group adaptive behavior treatment guidance, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional (without the patient present), face-to-face with multiple sets of guardians/caregivers, each 15 minutes.	LBA/LMHP ¹ /LABA ²
97158 and staff modifier	per 15 min	Group adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional, face-to-face with multiple patients, each 15 minutes. This code is used when the youth also has an assigned one to one technician present during the group treatment.	LBA/LMHP ¹ /LABA ² Youth also has assigned 1:1 technician (technician not billed separately)
0362T and staff modifier	per 15 min	Behavior identification supporting assessment, each 15 minutes of technicians' time face-to-face with a patient, requiring the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administered by the physician or other qualified healthcare professional who is on site; • with the assistance of two or more technicians; • for a patient who exhibits destructive behavior; • completed in an environment that is customized to the patient's behavior. 	Two or more technicians and LBA/LMHP ¹ /LABA ² (team rate)
0373T and staff modifier	per 15 min	Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification, each 15 minutes of technicians' time face-to-face with a patient, requiring the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administered by the physician or other 	Two or more technicians and LBA/LMHP ¹ /LABA ² (team rate)

		qualified healthcare professional who is on site; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with the assistance of two or more technicians; • for a patient who exhibits destructive behavior; • completed in an environment that is customized, to the patient's behavior 	
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¹ An LMHP-R, LMHP-RP or LMHP-S who has completed education and training in ABA may provide under the supervising LMHP.

² An LABA may act as a qualified healthcare professional as determined by the supervising LBA in accordance with 18VAC85-150-120.

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