

COMPARISON OF CO-TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER MEDICARE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY SETTINGS

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF)	Home Health (Part A)	Skilled Nursing Facility (Part A)	Skilled Nursing Facility (Part B)	Inpatient Hospital	Outpatient Hospital	Outpatient Facilities (Rehab Agencies, ORFs, and CORFs)	Physical Therapists in Private Practice
<p>When therapists co-treat in an IRF setting:</p> <p>The therapists can bill separately for the distinct services provided at the same time.</p> <p>Example: If the patient receives 15 minutes of individualized therapy from an occupational therapist and 15 minutes of individualized therapy from a physical therapist, then the patient has received 30 minutes of intensive rehabilitation therapy. Co-treatment must be clinically appropriate and provided solely for the benefit of the patient. Co-treatment may not be used for the accommodation of staffing schedules. The specific benefit to the patient of the co-treatment must be well-documented in the IRF medical record.</p>	<p>Based on the per-visit structure of the Home Health Prospective Payment System (PPS), co-treatment is atypical for this practice setting.</p> <p>If two therapists (i.e. a PT and an OT) co-treated a patient within the same visit, the therapists would only be able to bill for 1 visit.</p> <p>However, if two therapists (i.e. a PT and an OT) treated a patient within the same day, but there were two separate visits, then these therapists could bill for 2 visits.</p>	<p>When two clinicians, each from a different discipline, treat one resident at the same time (with different treatments), both disciplines may code the treatment session in full.</p> <p>All policies regarding mode, modalities and student supervision must be followed.</p> <p>The decision to co-treat should be made on a case by case basis and the need for co-treatment should be well documented for each patient.</p>	<p>When therapists or therapists and assistants work as a team to treat patients (either individual patients or groups):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They cannot each bill separately for the same service; • They cannot bill for different services provided at the same time to the same patient; and • The therapist bills only for the therapist's service. <p>When two therapists work together:</p> <p>They may split the minutes for timed codes and each bill for part of the treatment minutes, but they may not both bill timed codes for the same minutes.</p>	<p>The inpatient hospital setting does not have a specific policy regarding co-treatment. This is likely because inpatient hospital services are not reimbursed based on the amount of services provided, but rather based on diagnosis-related groups (DRGs).</p> <p>If therapists are co-treating within the acute care setting, we recommend that they follow the IRF policy, ensuring that co-treatment is clinically appropriate and provided solely for the benefit of the patient.</p>	<p>When therapists or therapists and assistants work as a team to treat patients (either individual patients or groups):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They cannot each bill separately for the same service; • They cannot bill for different services provided at the same time to the same patient; and • The therapist bills only for the therapist's service. <p>When two therapists work together:</p> <p>They may split the minutes for timed codes and each bill for part of the treatment minutes, but they may not both bill timed codes for the same minutes.</p>	<p>When therapists or therapists and assistants work as a team to treat patients (either individual patients or groups):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They cannot each bill separately for the same service; • They cannot bill for different services provided at the same time to the same patient; and • The therapist bills only for the therapist's service. <p>When two therapists work together:</p> <p>They may split the minutes for timed codes and each bill for part of the treatment minutes, but they may not both bill timed codes for the same minutes.</p>	<p>When therapists or therapists and assistants work as a team to treat patients (either individual patients or groups):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They cannot each bill separately for the same service; • They cannot bill for different services provided at the same time to the same patient; and • The therapist bills only for the therapist's service. <p>When two therapists work together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may split the minutes for timed codes and each bill for part of the treatment minutes, but they may not both bill timed codes for the same minutes.