

**Subject: Occupational, Physical, & Speech Therapy**

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## ***Policy***

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CareSource will reimburse physicians or skilled therapists for occupational, physical, and speech therapy within the limits of this policy.

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## ***Definitions***

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**“Occupational therapy”** is the evaluation and treatment of patients whose function is impaired by developmental deficiencies, physical injury or illness. The treatment approach used depends on the disorder or impairment, and may include therapy based on engagement in meaningful activities of daily life (as self-care skills, education, work, or social interaction) especially to enable or encourage participation in such activities despite impairments or limitations in physical or mental functioning. *(from Merriam-Webster.com Medical Dictionary)*

**“Physical therapy”** is the evaluation and treatment of patients using therapeutic exercise, physical modalities, assistive devices, and patient education and training for the preservation, enhancement, or restoration of movement and physical function impaired or threatened by disability, injury, or disease. *(from Merriam-Webster.com Medical Dictionary)*

**“Speech therapy”** is the treatment of speech and communication disorders. The treatment approach used depends on the disorder and may include physical exercises to strengthen the muscles used in speech (oral-motor work), speech drills to improve clarity, or sound production practice to improve articulation. Speech therapy is aimed to help a person with a speech or language disorder or problem to restore basic speech skills. *(from MedicineNet.com)*

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## ***Provider Reimbursement Guidelines***

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### **Prior Authorization**

Prior authorization is required when the dates of service exceed the limits outlined in this policy.

### **Coverage Limits**

Skilled therapy services are allowable for reimbursement only if an authorized prescriber prescribes therapies for a reasonable amount and frequency. Please refer to the CareSource Benefit Grid for the allowable services and number of covered visits for therapy services. Additional therapy services may be requested; prior authorization is required for those.

**Modifiers**

The following modifiers must be used when submitting claims for therapy services. Appropriate supporting documentation is also required.

- GN: Services delivered under an outpatient speech language pathology plan of care;
- GO: Services delivered under an outpatient occupational therapy plan of care
- GP: Services delivered under an outpatient physical therapy plan of care

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***Related Policies & References***

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OAC 5160-34, "Skilled Therapies in Non-Institutional Settings, Speech Therapy"  
907 KAR 3.005 Section 6.3 Physicians services / Therapy Limits

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***State Exceptions***

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***Document History***

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**10/31/2013** – OAC Rule renumbered from "5101:3-34," per Legislative Service Commission Guidelines.