

# ACUPUNCTURE CODES

## CPT Codes

- 97810 Acupuncture, one or more needles: without electrical stimulation, initial 15 minutes of personal one-on-one contact with patient.
- 97811 without electrical stimulation, each additional 15 minutes of personal one on one contact with the patient, with re-insertion of needle(s) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- 97813 Acupuncture, one or more needles, with electrical stimulation, initial 15 minutes of personal one-on-one contact with patient
- 97814 with electrical stimulation, each additional 15 minutes of personal one on one contact with the patient, with re-insertion of needle(s) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

### How is the 15-minute session defined?

The 15 minute increment of time is defined as personal one-on-one contact with the patient. This means that the physician acupuncturist is in the room with the patient, is actively performing a medically necessary activity that is a component of acupuncture or electroacupuncture. The time that the needles are retained is specifically excluded for the purpose of determining time and consequently from reimbursement.

- 1 unit (set) must include a minimum of 8 minutes face to face time with insertion (8-22 minutes = 1 unit)
- 2 units (sets) must be at least 23 minutes face-to-face time with a 2nd set applied after the 15<sup>th</sup> minute (23-37 = 2 units)
- 3 units (sets) must be at least 38 minutes face-to-face with a 3<sup>rd</sup> set applied after the 30<sup>th</sup> minute (38-52 = 3 units)
- 4 units (sets) must be at least 53 minutes face-to-face with a 4<sup>th</sup> set applied after the 45<sup>th</sup> minute (53-67 = 4 units)

### Do I need to reinsert needle(s) in order to bill the add-on codes 97811 or 97814?

Yes. According to the CPT Assistant, June 2005/Volume 15, Issue 6, "re-insertion of the needle(s) is required for the use of add-on codes 97811 and 97814.

### May I mix and match electrical and non-electrical stimulation procedures in the same session?

Yes. However, only one initial insertion of the needles is permitted per session per day. Therefore, per CPT, you should never code 97810 and 97813 on the same claim.

A simple rule of thumb is to never combine 97810 and 97813 on a single claim for acupuncture services because these two codes both describe an **initial** 15 minute treatment with insertion of one or more needles. The following code combinations are appropriate to pair provided the services are medically necessary and appropriate.



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