

How to Apply the Medicare OTA Payment Modifier

The modifier applies when:

- OTA performs entire 15 minute unit of service independently
- OTA performs more than 10% of a 15 minute unit (exception: 8 minute rule used for final unit)
- OTA performs 8 minutes or more of final unit of service and the OT performs less than 8
- OTA independently performs more than 10% of an untimed service independently

The modifier DOES NOT apply when:

- Services performed concurrently with an OT
- Non-therapeutic tasks
- Total time spent by OTA does not reach more than 10% of untimed service
- Total time spent by OTA does not reach more than 10% of a 15 minute unit
- OT performs 8 or more minutes of final unit of service

How do I calculate the modifier:

1. Add total visit time to determine how many units can be billed under the 8 minute rule
2. Determine how much time the OTA spent on each unit of service
3. For the last unit, calculate if the OT treatment time exceeded the 8 minute rule
4. For untimed codes, multiply the total time spent by 10% to determine if OTA treatment time exceeded it. The untimed codes are: 97165, 97166, 97167, 97168, 97150, 92610, 92526, 96110, 96127, supervised modalities

Scenario	Modifier Usage	Reasoning
OT performs evaluation OTA performs 12 minutes selfcare	97165 97535-CO	The OTA performed 100% of 97535 independently
OT spends 15 minutes on cognition OT and OTA work jointly for 30 minutes on selfcare OTA performs ADL training for 15 minutes	97129 97535 x 2 97535 - CO	The modifier is not required for time spent jointly furnishing services with the OT. Only the 15 minute unit performed independently by the OTA requires the modifier.
OT provides orthotics training for 12 minutes OTA demonstrates work integration training with orthotic for 8 minutes	97760	Using the 8 minute rule, only one unit can be billed for 20 minutes. Using the 8 minute rule, the OT performed 12 minutes, which is enough time to bill the unit independently. The time spent by the OTA need not be considered for billing.
OT provides self-care for 23 minutes OTA provides self-care for an additional 22 minutes	97535 x 2 97535-CO	45 minutes of self care were rendered, so 3 units are billable. For the first 2 units, the OT and the OTA each performed one full 15 minute unit, so one unit would require the modifier. For the last unit, the OT performed 8 minutes and the OTA performed 7 minutes, so no modifier is required.
OT performs 10 minutes of group therapy OTA takes over and performs another 8 minutes	97150-CO	Group therapy is an untimed service. To calculate for the modifier, total time must be taken into account. In this scenario, the OTA performed more than 10% of the service, so the modifier is required