

Original Question:

Our therapists are looking to start a preschool group with PT, OT, and speech. The three disciplines would all see the children in a group setting for an hour long session, and there would be 3-5 kids in the group. Has anyone done anything similar with all three disciplines at the same time? If so, how have you been successful in billing? Thanks for any insights you can provide.

1. We are very interested in doing group sessions but have not initiated it as yet. Thank you for asking the question about billing.

2. We do not have a group with all three disciplines. Just thought I'd add: for our groups, we have a ratio of 1 clinician to 3-4 children. For a group with 3 professionals, we would have a minimum of 10 children.

3. We have only done a social group with Speech at our Outpatient Center.

4. We bill based on what the staff actually do. Sometimes it is all group work so everyone bills a group charge. Sometimes it is a group of kids but each staff person has 1:1 time with a child and that is billed with the appropriate CPT code for the appropriate amount of time. I could be wrong but I don't think you can bill PT and OT as 1:1 for the same patient for services delivered at the same time. I haven't looked recently and things might have changed, but that is the way it used to be. Love to hear what everyone else is doing!

5. When we treat children in groups, one therapist can divide their time between the children: i.e 4 kids in a group, with 1 PT, each billed 15 minutes). If multiple therapists treat a child in a session, they too split the billing to not exceed the time with the child, they cannot both bill. In essence, the number of units children are in a session match the billed ours of our therapists.
Hope this makes sense.

6. We don't run groups with OT and PT present (we do have groups with Speech and OT) due to the fact that we can't bill OT and PT for the same time period (have to split the charges because OT and PT have time-based codes). I am assuming this is the underlying source/problem of your question. If I can elaborate further, I am glad to do so.