



QRTips

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Travel Related Billing Issues:

A clinician transports their client from one location to another in their vehicle and provides interventions as needed in order to keep the client calm and safe during transit. Is this a billable service and, if so, what is the correct way to capture this billable service time? How is the travel time billed correctly?

Yes, this too would be a targeted service reimbursed by Medi-Cal, so long as you make clear in your documentation what interventions you provided and why (the rationale) it was necessary. You also need to make it clear in your documentation that you are only billing Medi-Cal for the time you spent intervening and NOT time simply driving the client from one location to the other, as “transportation” of a client is never a billable service to Medi-Cal. So, in the case where you spend 35 minutes en route with the client in your vehicle and during which you deliver 25 minutes of Individual Therapy, you would bill 25 Service Minutes of Individual Therapy (CPT 90804) and record the 10 minutes of non-billable transportation time. No travel time would be billed to Medi-Cal while transporting the client.

****NOTE:** Transporting patients occurs **only in a few CYBH programs**, and prior to transporting a client the clinician should always check with their Service Chief or Program Director to ensure that this is appropriate for that program.

In the example above, the services are taking place out in the community and not in a single specific location. However, clinicians are always required to include the address where a service was provided if the service is not conducted at the Clinic or a client’s Home. In such cases, is the correct Encounter Type “Field” or “Site Visit?” Since either Encounter Type requires an address, what should be used as the corresponding address where the service was provided?

In these examples, either “Field” or “Site Visit” is fine with Medi-Cal and would be an appropriate Encounter Type. Yes, the address must also be included on the Encounter Document, and should be the street address of the provider’s final destination.