

# Medicare 8-Minute Rule Chart

The Medicare 8-Minute Rule is a billing guideline used by therapists to determine the number of billable units for time-based services. This rule requires at least 8 minutes of direct treatment for each billable unit, with each unit occurring in 15-minute increments.

You cannot bill specifically for documentation time after the patient visit. Include documentation done during the visit when it occurs alongside other services.

The 8-Minute Rule applies to outpatient service providers, including PT, OT, and SLP billing.

## HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR UNITS

1. **Add total time:** Add together all the time spent on providing timed services.
2. **Separate whole units:** Separate out each whole 15-minute unit by CPT code.
3. **Combine remainder minutes:** If there are any remaining minutes (mixed remainders), combine them with other services to create whole units.
4. **Bill additional unit:** If there are 8 or more remaining minutes left of a service, bill for another single unit.

## QUICK REFERENCE CHART

Total Treatment Time	Billable Units
8 – 22 minutes	1 unit
23 – 37 minutes	2 units
38 – 52 minutes	3 units
53 – 67 minutes	4 units
68 – 82 minutes	5 units
83 – 97 minutes	6 units
98 – 112 minutes	7 units
113 – 127 minutes	8 units

## BILLING MODIFIERS

- **CQ/CO:** Services performed in part by a therapy assistant (PTA uses CQ, OTA uses CO).
- **GA:** Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) on file for noncoverage of a service.
- **GO:** OT services provided.
- **GN:** SLP services provided.
- **GP:** PT services provided.
- **KX:** Services exceed the Medicare therapy threshold but remain medically necessary.

- **XP:** Service performed by a separate provider.
- **22:** Increased procedural services.
- **52:** Reduced or eliminated scope of a billed service.
- **59:** Services not usually provided together.
- **95:** Services provided through telemedicine.

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

Remember to document all timed services accurately and ensure that mixed remainders are combined appropriately to maximize billing units!

And verify with the latest Medicare guidelines for any updates to billing practices. The medicare website is bookmarked in the browser, make sure to check it every Monday for updates.