



YOLO COUNTY

Health & Human
Services Agency

**Code Descriptions and Guidance for using
Crisis Codes 90839MH, 90840MH, and
H2011MH**

There are three codes available to use for billing outpatient crisis intervention services, (not including Mobile Crisis Services billing codes).

90839MH Psychotherapy for Crisis, first 30-74 minutes and 90840MH each additional 30 minutes

Psychotherapy for Crisis is an urgent assessment and history of a crisis state, a mental status exam, and a disposition. The treatment includes psychotherapy, mobilization of resources to defuse the crisis and restore safety, and implementation of psychotherapeutic interventions to minimize the potential for psychological trauma. The presenting problem is typically life threatening or complex and requires immediate attention to a patient in high distress.

90839MH and 90840MH are used to claim the total duration of time face-to-face with the patient and/or family spent by the provider even if the time spent on that day is not continuous.

90839MH is the primary service and 90840MH is the add on code to use when the total service time exceeds 74 minutes. **90840MH is automated so it will not show up as an add-on code. Enter your full service time using 90839MH.**

All crisis services provided on the same day by the same provider to the same client must be documented in one progress note.

Guidance and Restrictions for 90839MH and 90840MH:

- The patient must be present for all or some of the service.
- The service must be face-to-face (in-person). 90839MH cannot be provided via phone or telehealth.
- 90839MH is limited to LMHPs. Cannot be provided by an MHRS.
- Minimum billing time is 30 minutes.
- Maximum crisis billing in a 24-hour period is 8 hours/480 minutes.
- Use 90839MH Psychotherapy when time spent is 16-29 minutes.
- Use H2011MH when:
 - Service time is less than 16 minutes
 - Services are provided via methods other than in-person, e.g., via phone
 - Services are provided by non-lic/reg/waivered individuals

Definition Note: Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHP) are individuals who are licensed, registered, or waived mental health professionals.

H2011MH Crisis Intervention Services

Crisis Intervention is an unplanned, expedited service, to or on behalf of a member to address a condition that requires more timely response than a regularly scheduled visit. Crisis intervention is an emergency response service enabling the member to cope with a crisis, while assisting the member in regaining their status as a functioning community member. The goal of crisis intervention is to stabilize an immediate crisis within a community or clinical treatment setting.

Crisis intervention may include contact with significant support persons or other collaterals if the purpose of their participation is to focus on the treatment of the beneficiary.

Crisis intervention may be provided face-to-face, by telephone or by telehealth and may be provided in a clinic setting or anywhere in the community.

This service includes one or more of the following service components:

- Assessment
- Collateral
- Therapy
- Referral

Guidance and Restrictions for H2011MH

- Can be provided via phone or telehealth
- Can be provided by an MHRS in addition to lic/reg/waivered staff
- Minimum billing time is 8 minutes
- Maximum crisis billing in a 24-hour period is 8 hours/480 minutes.

Crisis Billing Codes			
Code	Billing Requirements Situation 1	Billing Requirements Situation 2	Billing Requirements Situation 3
When to use Psychotherapy for Crisis – 90839MH	1. You are an LMHP. 2. The service was in-person 3. The service was 30 minutes or more		
When to use Therapy – 9083XMH	1. You are an LMHP. 2. The service was not in person 3. The service was 16 minutes or more	1. You are an LMHP 2. The service was in person 3. The service was 16-29 minutes	
When to use Crisis Intervention – H2011MH	1. You are an LMHP 2. The service was in-person 3. The service was 8-15 minutes	1. You are an LMHP 2. The service was not in-person 3. The service was 8-15 minutes	1. You are not an LMHP