

The Role of PPS Social Workers in the CYBHI Fee Schedule Program

A Pupil Personnel Services (**PPS**) **School Social Worker** supports students, families, and school systems through:

- » Counseling and psychotherapy (individual/group)
- » Crisis intervention
- » Behavioral health screenings and assessments
- » Family outreach and parent training
- » Care coordination

These comprehensive services are structured to remove barriers to learning, promote student well-being, and enhance educational outcomes across the school community. This document provides illustrative examples¹ of billable school-based service activities mapped to Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Fee Schedule program billing codes for **PPS School Social Workers**.

¹ Disclaimer: This guidance is designed to be helpful and assist CYBHI Fee Schedule program participants; however, it is not designed, nor does DHCS intend through its publication, to provide legal counsel. This is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice by DHCS. Readers are encouraged to consult their legal counsel prior to developing and implementing operational policies and procedures governing the CYBHI Fee Schedule program.

Utilizing the CYBHI Fee Schedule Program Codes

For a full list of CYBHI Fee Schedule billable codes, please visit the DHCS website at <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/CYBHI/Documents/CYBHI-Fee-Schedule-Program-Scope-of-Services-Codes-and-Reimbursement-Rates.pdf>.

The most frequently billed CYBHI Fee Schedule billing codes for **PPS School Social Workers** as of June 2026:

Code	Service Description	Rate
90832	Individual psychotherapy (16-37 minutes)	\$67.83
H2014	Skills Training & Development, per 15 minutes	\$8.04 (Group)
H2027	Psychoeducational Services, per 15 minutes	\$20.11 (Individual)
90834	Individual psychotherapy (38-52 minutes)	\$89.64
96156	Psychosocial Status Assessment	\$85.40
90837	Individual psychotherapy (53+ minutes)	\$131.97
T1017	Targeted Case Management, per 15 minutes	\$21.34
99402	Preventative Medicine Counseling (30 minutes)	\$56.93

Modifiers

All claims must include the "U4" modifier, which is the CYBHI Fee Schedule program identifier, for each billing code listed on the claim. "U4" must be in the first modifier position on a claim line. Claims submitted for reimbursement without the "U4" modifier will not be processed until corrected.

For psychoeducation codes H2014 and H2027, individual services must include the "HA" modifier and group services must include the "HQ" modifier in the second modifier position on a claim line.

For services provided via synchronous telephone or other real-time interactive audio-only telecommunications systems, use the "93" modifier. For services provided via synchronous, interactive audio and visual telecommunications systems, use the "95" modifier.

Instructions for Use of Time as Units

For procedure codes that are time-based, each measure of time as defined by the code description equals one unit (e.g., 15 minutes, 30 minutes). Most time-based codes can be billed more than once per day per student. Time billed for reimbursable services

should include only direct service time. Indirect service time has been included in the reimbursement rate and should not be billed.

The Midpoint Rule

Time-based services must be billed to the code with the appropriate time increment. To be eligible for reimbursement, the service must have lasted at least half plus one minute of the billing increment specified for that code. This is known as the midpoint or half-point rule. For codes that are billed per 15 minutes, a minimum eight (8) minutes of service must be provided to bill for one unit. Partial units must be rounded up or down to the nearest quarter hour. For example, a service that takes 24 minutes can be billed for 2 units of service (e.g., 15 minutes (1 unit) + 9 minutes (half-point rule) = 24 minutes or 2 billable units).

Illustrative Examples of Billable Fee Schedule Services

Scenario 1: Anxiety Impacting Classroom Participation

A student frequently avoids class presentations and reports feeling panicky. The PPS Social Worker meets with the student for 30 minutes:

- » Conducts a brief emotional screening (e.g., Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ)-2 or Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)-2)
- » Provides psychoeducation on anxiety and coping strategies
- » Practices grounding techniques with the student

Detailed Activities: Conduct a structured emotional screening using validated tools (PHQ-2, GAD-2). Engage the student in psychoeducation about anxiety triggers and coping mechanisms. Demonstrate and practice grounding techniques such as deep breathing and sensory focus. Document progress and provide follow-up recommendations to teachers for classroom support.

Note: Psychoeducation codes H2014 or H2027 can be used for services related to education, development, and skills training to address a student's behavioral health needs. When billing for an individual, use the modifier "HA", and when billing for a group, use the modifier "HQ".

Illustrative Billing Codes:

- » 96127 (Brief Emotional/Behavioral Assessment) \$4.81, U4 modifier

- » H2014 (Skills Training and Development) \$20.11 per 15 minutes, U4 and HA modifiers

Scenario 2: Grief and Loss Support

A student experiences the death of a family member. The PPS Social Worker meets with the student for 55 minutes:

- » Screens for trauma and emotional distress
- » Provides psychotherapy for grief and normalizes emotional responses
- » Engages family in support planning and connects to community resources

Detailed Activities: Perform trauma-informed screening for emotional distress. Deliver grief counseling using evidence-based approaches like Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for grief. Facilitate family engagement through joint sessions and provide resource referrals for community bereavement programs. Document emotional responses and coping strategies discussed.

Illustrative Billing Codes:

- » 96127 (Brief Emotional/Behavioral Assessment) \$4.81, U4 modifier
- » 90834 (Individual psychotherapy) \$89.64 (38-52 minutes), U4 modifier
- » 90847 (Family psychotherapy session) \$89.65 (50 minutes), U4 modifier
- » T1017 (Targeted Case Management) \$21.34, per 15 minutes, U4 modifier

Scenario 3: Academic Stress and Burnout

A high-achieving student reports panic attacks related to college applications. The PPS Social Worker meets with the student for 30 minutes and provides 10 minutes of psychoeducation:

- » Screens for anxiety and depression
- » Provides stress management and mindfulness techniques
- » Coordinates with teachers to adjust workload

Detailed Activities: Administer anxiety and depression screening tools. Teach stress management techniques including mindfulness and time management strategies. Coordinate with teachers to adjust academic workload and provide psychoeducation on balancing responsibilities. Document interventions and student feedback.

Illustrative Billing Codes:

- » 96156 (Psychosocial Status Assessment) \$85.40, U4 modifier
- » H2014 (Skills Training and Development) \$20.11 per 15 minutes, U4 and HA modifier
- » T1017 (Targeted Case Management) \$21.34 per 15 minutes, U4 modifier

Scenario 4: Crisis Intervention for Suicidal Ideation

A student discloses thoughts of self-harm. The PPS Social Worker:

- » Conducts a suicide risk assessment
- » Develops a safety plan with the student
- » Coordinates a referral and warm hand off to emergency mental health services

Detailed Activities: Conduct a comprehensive suicide risk assessment using standardized protocols. Develop a personalized safety plan with the student, including coping strategies and emergency contacts. Coordinate an immediate referral and warm hand off to emergency mental health services and communicate with guardians. Document all actions and follow-up steps.

Illustrative Billing Codes:

- » 90839 (Crisis Psychotherapy, first 60 minutes) \$126.55, U4 modifier
- » T1017 (Targeted Case Management) \$21.34, per 15 minutes, U4 modifier

Scenario 5: Substance Use Concerns

A student is caught vaping cannabis on campus. The PPS Social Worker meets with the student for 25 minutes:

- » Conducts a motivational interviewing session
- » Provides psychoeducation on substance use risks
- » Coordinates referral to a prevention program

Detailed Activities: Use motivational interviewing techniques to explore substance use behaviors and readiness for change. Provide psychoeducation on health risks associated with vaping and substance use. Connect the student to school-based prevention programs and external treatment resources. Document session content and referrals made.

Illustrative Billing Codes:

- » 99408 (Substance Use Screening & Brief Intervention, 15–30 minutes) \$31.24, U4 modifier

- » T1017 (Targeted Case Management) \$21.34 per 15 minutes, U4 modifier

Scenario 6: Group Presentation – Stress Management Workshop

The PPS Social Worker facilitates a 30-minute classroom presentation on stress management for 25 students²:

- » Provides psychoeducation on stress and its impact on health
- » Guides mindfulness exercises
- » Distributes coping strategy handouts

Detailed Activities: Prepare and deliver a structured group session on stress management, including psychoeducation on stress physiology. Facilitate interactive mindfulness exercises and group discussions. Distribute educational handouts and encourage peer support strategies. Document attendance and key discussion points.

Illustrative Billing Codes:

- » H2014 (Skills Training and Development – Group) \$8.04 per 15 minutes, per student, U4 and HQ modifier

Illustrative Reimbursement Table for Billing Scenarios

Scenario	Codes Used	Total Billable
Scenario 1: Anxiety Impacting Classroom Participation	96127 (\$4.81) + H2014 (2 units × \$20.11)	\$45.03
Scenario 2: Grief and Loss Support	96127 (\$4.81) + 90834 (\$89.64) + 90847 (\$89.65) + T1017 (2 units × \$21.34)	\$226.78
Scenario 3: Academic Stress and Burnout	96156 (\$85.40) + H2014 (\$20.11) + T1017 (\$21.34)	\$126.85

² Please note that claims can only be reimbursed for students in the group for whom medical necessity is established before or after the service is performed.

Scenario	Codes Used	Total Billable
Scenario 4: Crisis Intervention for Suicidal Ideation	90839 (\$126.55) + T1017 (2 units × \$21.34)	\$169.23
Scenario 5: Substance Use Concerns	99408 (\$31.24) + T1017 (\$21.34)	\$52.58
Scenario 6: Group Presentation – Stress Management Workshop	H2014 (2 units × \$8.04 × 25 students)	\$402.00
	Total Reimbursement	\$1,022.47