

How to Enter a Complexity Code

1. Select the primary Proc. Code for the visit. In this example below, the primary Proc. Code is 90834.
2. For the primary Proc. Code, select 1 unit and enter the minutes.
3. On the second line, select the Complexity Code Add On 90785.
4. For the 90785, select 1 unit and 0 minutes for the duration. This is important because the complexity code does not account for any time unit.
5. See Important information regarding interactive complexity codes below.

The screenshot shows a medical software interface for entering a SOAP note. At the top, there are icons for save, print, and other functions, along with a template dropdown set to ".SOAP Note - MH" and an "Insert" button. Below this, patient information is entered: Patient: "Example, Client .", Type: "MH", Therapist: "Holdredge PsyD LMFT, Jennif", Date: "10/17/2019 6:10 PM", and Location: "Office".

Proc. Code	DX 1	DX 2	DX 3	DX 4	Units	Duration	Inv.#	Authorizations
90834 38-52 min	F31.12 Bipo				1	45 min.	—	
90785 complexity add	F31.12 Bipo				1	0 min.	—	
					0	0 min.	—	
Totals:					2	45 min.		

Important information regarding interactive complexity codes:

- Add-on codes should be reported in conjunction with specified primary procedure codes; add-on codes may not be reported alone.
- The interactive complexity add-on code (90785) can only be used with 90791, 90832, 90834 & 90837 and **cannot be used with family psychotherapy codes (90846/90847)**.
- When performed with psychotherapy, interactive complexity relates only to the increased intensity of the psychotherapy service; it does not change the time of the psychotherapy service.
- Documentation of interactive complexity should include:
 - ✓ A record of base service delivery code(s), all coding requirements and the interactive complexity code in the same note.
 - ✓ Evidence within the multicode service note indicating the specific category of complexity present during the intervention.
- Examples of appropriate uses of interactive complexity add-on code 90785:
 - ✓ Maladaptive communication among participants that complicates the delivery of care
 - ✓ Caregiver emotions or behaviors that interfere with the treatment plan
 - ✓ Evidence or disclosure of a sentinel event or mandated report to a third party and initiation of discussion of the event or report with patient and other participants
 - ✓ Use of play equipment, physical devices, interpreter or translator to overcome barriers to interaction with a patient who is not fluent in the same language —or who has not developed or has lost language skills

What does this mean for me?

- You should ensure that the interactive complexity add-on code is used appropriately as it relates to difficulties encountered during the psychiatric procedure.
- You should bill this code when it meets the specific criteria for interactive complexity.
- Please note that excessive use of this code could result in additional medical record review and potentially lead to recoupment of payment if the medical record does not support use of the code.