

Position Statement on Codification of Medical Evaluation and Management Services in Psychotherapy

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 1997

Approved by the Assembly, November 1997

"Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees...These are...position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects..." – *APA Operations Manual*.

Current policies of HCFA and AMA's CPT distinguish between psychotherapy and medical evaluation and management. However, psychotherapy provided by psychiatrists includes continuous medical evaluation and management services. Their medical knowledge enables psychiatrists not only to evaluate the medical aspects of the patient's condition and to prescribe correctly, but also to provide continuous evaluation of the full biopsychosocial presentation of the patient. All are essential in the practice of psychiatry and in psychotherapy provided by psychiatrists. Such knowledge indeed does provide added value to the clinical encounter of the patient with the psychiatrist, and should be recognized as such.