Schedule C category map for a therapy practice

Common solo-practice expenses and the Schedule C (Form 1040) Part II line they most often land on, checked against the 2025 revision of the form and its instructions. Where the placement is a judgment call the note says so; your CPA decides.

Expense to line

Expense	Schedule C line	Note
Directory listings and other paid advertising	Line 8 Advertising	A paid listing is advertising; the form has no separate line for it
Mileage between offices, schools, home visits	Line 9 Car and truck expenses	Standard rate (70 cents per business mile for 2025) or actual costs; complete Part IV and keep a written log
Card processing fees (Stripe, Square, EHR payments)	Line 10 Commissions and fees	Common placement for merchant fees; ask your CPA
Bank account fees	Part V Other expenses (line 48 to 27b)	Listed by type in Part V; some CPAs put these on line 10 instead; ask your CPA
Biller, virtual assistant, other 1099 contractors	Line 11 Contract labor	Payments to people you do not treat as employees; Form 1099-NEC threshold: $600 for 2025 payments, $2,000 from 2026 (IRS i1099mec)
Supervision or consultation paid to another clinician	Line 11 Contract labor or Line 17 Legal and professional services	The instructions keep line 17 professional fees off line 11; ask your CPA which fits
Professional liability insurance	Line 15 Insurance (other than health)	The instructions place business insurance premiums here; ask your CPA about your own health insurance
CPA and attorney fees, tax preparation for the practice	Line 17 Legal and professional services	The instructions name accountants, attorneys and business tax preparation here
Office supplies and postage	Line 18 Office expense	The instructions define line 18 as office supplies and postage
Office rent	Line 20b Rent or lease, other business property	Line 20a is for vehicles and equipment
Furniture, small equipment, books used within a year	Line 22 Supplies	Items that last substantially beyond a year are generally depreciated (line 13); ask your CPA
State license and board fees	Line 23 Taxes and licenses	The instructions include licenses and regulatory fees paid each year to state or local governments
Meals with a business purpose	Line 24b Deductible meals	Limits apply; ask your CPA before assuming any meal is deductible
Phone and internet	Line 25 Utilities	The instructions bar the base rate of the first phone line into a home; business share only; ask your CPA

Expense	Schedule C line	Note
EHR and practice software subscriptions	Part V Other expenses (line 48 to 27b)	No line names software; list it by type in Part V; ask your CPA
Continuing education	Part V Other expenses (line 48 to 27b)	Deductibility of education has its own rules; ask your CPA
Professional association dues	Part V Other expenses (line 48 to 27b)	Listed by type in Part V
Home office	Line 30 Expenses for business use of your home	Form 8829 or the simplified square-footage method; whether you qualify is a CPA question

How to read this

- ☐ Line numbers and names are from Schedule C (Form 1040) 2025 and its instructions, downloaded from irs.gov on 24 September 2026
- ☐ Part V is the catch-all: list each type of expense and its amount, total them on line 48, and carry the total to line 27b
- ☐ Anything marked ask your CPA is a placement or eligibility question the form does not settle on its own

A category map from the form's own line definitions, not tax advice; a CPA decides where each expense belongs on your return.