



QRTIPS

Health Care Agency • Behavioral Health Services • CYS Quality, Review & Training

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Psychological Testing Reminders for EPSDT Medi-Cal billing

- When **medically necessary**, eligible Medi-Cal recipients may receive psychological testing when **clinically indicated** to evaluate a mental health condition
- Before psychological testing is conducted a **valid referral reason should be documented** in the clients chart record. The reason for referral should be specific. The progress note should document the **reason and purpose** of the psychological testing. The referral question must also be listed on the psychological testing report.

Examples of valid referral questions:

Client has been reported to speak with persons not physically present, and reports seeing people and hearing voices when no one else is physically present. Testing requested to rule out possible psychotic process.

Client has shown signs of cognitive impairment that may be limiting client's ability to benefit from therapy. Testing requested in order to determine how to best tailor interventions to the client.

- Any psychological testing must be **relevant to the current/proposed client service plan**. Psychological testing resulting in treatment recommendations should be reflected in the client's chart record.
- Any billing for testing must eventually result in a report and interpretation of the results that must be in the chart record. If the case is closed before the psychological testing is completed, then a summary of any findings must be in the chart.
If only one test instrument is administered (i.e. the Child Behavior Checklist) and is billed as psychological testing then, at the very least, a progress note summarizing the finding needs to be written and placed in the chart record.
- When a psychologist is **explaining psychological testing results to another clinician** then this can be billed as **case management targeted (90899-1)**. When a psychologist is **conveying test results to a consumer/ or their legal guardian** then the **psychological testing code 96101** can be used.
- Progress notes documenting psychological testing should define the tests used, **with both the actual name of the test and its acronym**. Notes should make comments (relatively brief) about the client's general responses to the test(s), whether their performance was notable in any way. For example, which tests on which they had difficulty, on which they did well, and or, refused to complete
- Psychological testing codes **96101** and **96103** are **never used for history gathering activity** in preparation for psychological testing. History gathering should be billed to **90899-6** Mental Health Assessment-Other assessment.
- Speech and Language assessments are not billable to Medi-Cal.
- Psychological tests utilized should be **validated and normed** according to the **child's age group and population**. Please see the American Psychological Associations website: <http://www.apa.org/science/programs/testing/test-clearinghouse.aspx> for further information.
- Use the proper psychological testing codes:
 - **Psych Test by Psychologist (96101)**: This code is used for psychological testing that includes psycho diagnostic assessment of personality, psychopathology, emotionality, intellectual abilities conducted by a psychologist with interpretation and report.
 - **Psych Test by Computer (96103)**: This type of psychological testing includes psycho-diagnostic assessment of personality, psychopathology, emotionality, intellectual abilities **by a computer, including the psychologist's time for interpretation and report.**
- Psychological Testing is always **billed by the minute**.
- Psychological Testing conducted by student interns **must be co-signed by the supervising clinical psychologist**. This includes all associated progress notes and the final psychological report summarizing the findings.