



Kevin Corbett | Chief Executive Officer

J. Kevin Stitt | Governor

OHCA 2022-18

September 9, 2022

Re: Assessment/Evaluation and Testing Updated Guidance

Dear Provider,

Assessment, evaluation, and testing are covered benefits when provided by a psychologist, certified psychometrist, psychological technician of a psychologist, a licensed behavioral health professional (LBHP), or licensure candidate utilizing tests selected from currently accepted assessment test batteries.

General requirements for psychological evaluation/testing can be found within the [Prior Authorization \(PA\) manual](#). PA requirements include, but are not limited to:

- a. client is experiencing difficulty in functioning with origins not clearly determined;
- b. an evaluation has been recommended and/or requested by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist or a licensed mental health professional;
- c. results of evaluation will directly impact current treatment strategies, and
- d. if client has been tested recently a different testing battery will be performed.

Testing results must be reflected in the service plan or medical record. The service plan must clearly document the need for testing and what the testing is expected to achieve. The service plan must document:

- a. what tests will be used;
- b. how many hours the testing will require;
- c. who will be performing the tests and their credentials;
- d. the reason for the testing; and



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- e. how the evaluation results will specifically affect goals and objectives.

Limitations

Eight hours of testing per patient (over the age of three¹), per provider is allowed every 12 months. There may be instances when further testing is appropriate based on the established medical necessity criteria found in the PA manual. Justification for additional testing beyond the allowed amount must be clearly explained and documented in the medical record. Additional hours of testing can be requested by submitting a PA adjustment request with Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services PICIS.

Testing services are excluded from the 35-hour rule as per Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) 317:30-5-241 (g). A maximum of 12 hours of therapy and testing services per day per provider are allowed.

Billing

Testing units must be billed on the date the testing, interpretation, scoring, and/or reporting was performed and supported by documentation. All codes are to be listed by date of service and may be billed together on the last date of service when the episode of care is completed in cases where a service is spread out over multiple visits.

The first testing evaluation 60-minute code and first test administration and scoring 30-minute code, otherwise known as base codes, should only be submitted for the first unit of service and only add-on codes should be used thereafter to capture subsequent units of service on the same or different days.

Under supervision psychologist contracting

Pre- and post-doctoral individuals with board approved supervision can individually contract and obtain prior authorizations. Practicum level individuals cannot contract or bill unless they have another qualifying license in place. Under-supervision practicum individuals practice under the supervising psychologist's license. The supervising psychologist is listed as the rendering provider on claims and the "HL" modifier is appended to indicate the service was not personally rendered.

¹ Testing for a child 0-36 months is only reimbursable when provided by a licensed psychologist as outlined in 08/25/2015 Global Message: Clarification Regarding Psych Testing for Children, Ages 0-3.



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Use of psychological technicians

A psychological technician of a psychologist is defined by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists as being “under the direct and continuing supervision of the licensed psychologist” (OAC 575:10-1-7).

All testing services performed by psychological technicians shall be billed with the supervising psychologist listed as the rendering provider on claims and the “HL” modifier appended to indicate the service was not personally rendered. Covered psychological technician services include:

- CPT code 96138- Administration of Psychological or Neuropsychological Test by Technician: First 30 minutes,
- CPT code 96139 Administration of Psychological or Neuropsychological Test by Technician, Each Additional 30 minutes.

Thank you for your continued service to our SoonerCare members.

Sincerely,

Traylor Rains,
State Medicaid Director



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