

# Medical Coverage Policies

[Printer-Friendly Page](#)

## Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing

<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	01/01/2005	<b>LAST UPDATED</b>	02/19/2008
<b>RELATED POLICIES</b>	Behavioral Health Services, Early Intervention Services		

### Description:

The physician or other healthcare provider measures cognitive, psychomotor, and other abilities through written, oral, or combined format testing. The testing is accomplished by the combination of several types of testing procedures. It is expected that the administration of these tests will generate material that will be formulated into a report.

Psychological testing refers to a series of tests used to evaluate and treat an individual with emotional, psychiatric, neuropsychiatric, personality illness(es), or developmental delays.

Neuropsychological testing is used to determine the brain's capacity with respect to short- and long-term memory, abstract reasoning, attention concentration, executive function, motor skills and other cognitive and psychological factors.

### Medical Criteria:

Not applicable.

### Policy:

Psychological/Neurological testing is covered only when submitted by one of the following providers:

- Psychiatrist, or
- Neuro-psychologist, or
- Psychologist, or
- Pediatric neurodevelopmental specialist.

The following two services, in the aggregate, are limited to 6 hours (units) of testing per provider/group per calendar year. Services greater than 6 hours will be denied as not separately reimbursed:

**96101**  
**96102**

The following three services, in the aggregate, will be limited to 10 hours ( units) of testing per provider/group per calendar year. Services greater than 10 hours will be denied as not separately reimbursed:

**96116**  
**96118**  
**96119**

The following interview codes are covered and can be filed on the same dates of services as the above codes and do not apply to the Neurological/psychological reimbursement limits described above.

**90801**  
**90802**

The following testing codes are covered and do not apply to the psychological/neuropsychological testing limits described above.

**96103**

**96120**

**Coverage**

Benefits may vary between group/contract. Please refer to the subscriber agreement/member certificate/Rite Care contract for applicable diagnostic imaging, lab, and machine tests, medical or behavioral health benefits/coverage.

If services are being provided under state or federal laws that provide services for the health of school children or handicapped children, then they are excluded from coverage (See Rhode Island General Law, Title 16, Chapters 21, 24, 25, and 26 and applicable regulations governing the health of school children and special education of handicapped children or comparable requirements established by federal law or state law of applicable jurisdiction).

If services are being provided as part of Early Intervention Services, please refer to the Early Intervention Policy.

**Coding:**

The following codes are covered under the member's diagnostic imaging, lab, and machine test benefit:

**96101**  
**96102**  
**96116**  
**96118**  
**96119**

The following therapy codes will be considered not separately reimbursed **IF** provided on the same date as 96101, 96102, 96116, 96118, or 96119:

**90804**  
**90805**  
**90806**  
**90807**  
**90808**  
**90809**  
**90810**  
**90811**  
**90812**  
**90813**  
**90814**  
**90815**  
**90823**  
**90824**  
**90826**  
**90827**

The following codes are covered as medical services and not impacted by this policy:

**96105**  
**96110**  
**96111** (this code is limited to specialties noted above)

The following CPT code is covered and outside the payment cap. It also is not limited to psychiatrists, neuro-psychologists, psychologists, pediatric neurodevelopmental as NONE of those would use the code. This code is intended for Speech, MSW, and OT professionals:

**96125**

**The following is a list of most commonly used tests.**

**Note: this is not an inclusive list and CPT or HCPCS codes do not exist for any of these tests.**

16-PF  
ABEL Screen  
"ACTERS-ADD\_H Comprehens, Teachers Rating"  
ADDES Attention Deficit Disorder Evaluation Scales  
ADHD Rating Scale  
Adolescent Anger Rating Scale  
Adolescent Aperception cards  
Adolescent Depression Scale (Reynolds)  
Adolescent Drinking Index  
Adolescent Psychopathology Scale  
Adolescent Symptom Inventory (Checkmate Plus)  
Alcohol Use Inventory  
All Tests on the ValueOptions list  
Aphasia Screening Test (Reitan Indiana)  
Asperger/Autism Rating Scale  
Asperger's Syndrome Diagnostic Scales (ASDS)  
Attention Deficit Disorders Evaluation Scale McCarney)  
Attention Deficit Scales for Adults (ADSA)  
Bayley Scales of Infant Development  
Beck Anxiety Inventory  
Beck Depression Inventory  
Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II)  
Beck Hopelessness Scale (BHS)  
Beck Scale for Suicidal Ideation  
Beery VMI (developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration)  
Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC)  
Behavior Assessment System for Children -2 (BASC-2) Parent version  
Behavior Assessment System for Children -2 (BASC-2) Self-report Version  
Behavior Assessment System for Children -2 (BASC-2) Teacher version  
Behavior Dimensions Scale (McCarney)  
Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Functions  
Bender Gestalt  
Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test  
Benton Facial Recognition Test  
Benton Judgment of Line Orientation Test  
Benton MAE Sentence Repetition  
Benton MAE Token Test  
Benton MAE Visual Naming Test  
Benton Multilingual Aphasia Exam (BMAE)  
Benton Right-Left Orientation test  
Benton Serial Digit Learning Test  
Benton Visual Form Discrimination test  
Benton Visual Retention Test  
Booklet Categories Test  
Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Examination-3  
Boston Naming Test  
BRIEF Neuropsychological Cognitive Exam  
Brief Symptom Inventory  
BRIEF(Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Functioning)  
BRIEF(Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Functioning) Adult  
Brown Attention-Deficit Disorder Scales  
Burk's Behavior Rating Scale  
CAP(Child Attention Problems)  
CAT(Children's Aperception Test)  
Categories Test  
CAVLT-Children's Auditory Verbal Learning Test  
CBCL-Achenbach Child Behavior Checklist  
CELF Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals  
Child Depression Inventory (Kovacs)  
Child Depression Scale (Reynolds)  
Child Mania Rating Scale  
Child Symptom Inventory (Checkmate Plus)  
Childhood Autism Rating Scales  
Children's Attention & Adjustment Survey (CAAS)  
Children's Category Test (CCT)

Children's Color Trails Test  
Children's Depression Inventory (CDI)  
Children's Depression rating Scale-Revised  
Children's Manifest Anxiety Scale-Revised  
Children's Memory Scale  
Children's Personality Questionnaire  
Children's State-Trait Anxiety Inventory  
Chronic Pain Battery  
Clinical Attention Test-Adult (CAT-A)  
Clinical Attention Test-Child (CAT-C)  
Clock Drawing  
Cognistat  
Color Form Test  
Comprehensive BEH Rating Scale for Children (CBRSC)  
Computer Category Test  
Conner's Adult ADHD Rating Scale (CAARS)  
Conner's Continuous Performance Test  
Connor's Continuous Performance Test II  
Connor's Rating Scale-Revised  
Connor's Rating Scale-Teacher or Parent  
Controlled Word Fluency Test  
COWAT (Controlled Oral Word Association test)  
CPI (California Psychological Inventory)  
CPQ Children's Personality Questionnaire  
CVLT-California Verbal Learning Test  
CVLT-California Verbal Learning Test for Children  
Delis-Kaplan Executive Functional Scale  
Dementia Rating Scales (Mattis)  
Denmon Memory Battery  
Detroit Test of Learning Aptitude  
Developmental Test of Visual Motor Integration (Berry-Biktenica)  
Deverean Scales of Mental Disorders  
Diagnostic Achievement Battery-2  
Diagnostic Achievement battery-2(DAB2)  
Diagnostic Interview for Children & Adolescents Computer program (DICA-IV)  
Differential Ability Scale (DAS)  
Dyadic Adjustment Scale  
Early Childhood Attention Deficit Disorders Evaluation Scale  
Eating Disorder Inventory 2 (EDI-2)  
Eating Inventory  
Endler Multidimensional Anxiety Scales  
Examining for Aphasia  
Expressive One Word Vocabulary Test-Revised  
Family Apperception Test  
Family Kinetic Drawing  
Field Object Memory Evaluation  
Finger Tapping Test (Electric or Manual)  
FIRO-B  
Folstein Mini Mental Status  
General Ability Measures for Adults  
Gilliam Autism Rating Scale (GARS-2)  
Gillian Asperger's Disorder Scale (GADS)  
Goldman-Fristoe Woodcock Auditory Discrim. Battery  
Gordon Diagnostic System  
Gray Oral Reading Test  
Grip Strength  
Grooved Pegboard  
Halstead Reitan Neuro Battery  
Hamilton Depression Inventory (HDI)  
Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression Revised (Clinician Form)  
Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression-Revised (Self Report)  
Hand Test  
Hare Psychopathy checklist-R (PCL-R)  
High School Personality Inventory  
Holtzman Inkblot Test  
Hooper Visual Organization Test  
House Tree Person (H-T-P)  
"HSQ, HSQ-R (Home Situations Questionnaire)"

Human Figure Drawings  
Incomplete Sentences Blank  
Intermediate Visual & Auditory CPT (IVA)  
Judgment of Line Orientation  
KABC (Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children)  
Kaufman Adolescent and Adult Intelligence Test  
Kaufman Short Neuropsychological Assess Procedure (K-SNAP)  
Kinetic Family Drawings  
Lateral Dominance Exam  
Louisville Behavioral Checklist  
Luria Nebraska Neuropsych Battery  
Luria Nebraska Neuropsych Battery for Children  
Luria Nebraska Neuropsych Battery for Children-Screen Version  
Luria Nebraska Neuropsych Battery-Screen Version  
Make a Picture Story  
MAPI (Millon Adolescent Personality Inventory)  
Marital Satisfaction Inventory Revised (MSI-R)  
Maryland Addictions Questionnaire (MAQ)  
Matching V's and Figures Test  
McCarthy Scales of Children's Abilities  
McGill Pain Inventory  
Memory Assessment Scales  
Menyuck Sentence Comprehension Test  
MicroCog Assessment of Cognitive Functioning  
Millon Adolescent Clinical inventory (MACI)  
Millon Adolescent Personality Inventory (MAPI)  
Millon Behavioral Health Inventory (MBH)  
Minnesota Test for Differential Diagnosis of Aphasia  
MMPI Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory  
MMPI-2 Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2  
MMPI-A Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory Adolescent  
Motor-Free Visual Perception Test  
Multiscore Depression Inventory for Adolescents and Adults  
Multiscore Depression Inventory for Children  
Neo Five Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI)  
NEO Personality-R (NEO PI-R)  
NEPSY  
NESPY  
Neuropsychological Impairment Scale  
Omni IV Personality Disorder Inventory  
Omni Personality Inventory  
Paced Auditory Serial Addition Test  
Pain Apperception Test  
Pain Patient Profile  
Pain Patient Profile (P3)  
Parent Child Relationship Inventory (PCRI)  
Parenting Stress Index  
Parenting Stress Index (PSI)  
PASAT C Auditory Serial Addition Test  
Peabody Developmental Motor Scales and Activity Cards  
Peabody Individual Achievement Test-Revised (PIAT-R)  
Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test-Revised (PPVY-R)  
Perception of Ability Scale for Students  
Personal Experience Inventory for Adolescents (PEI)  
Personal Experience Inventory for Adults (PEI-A)  
Personality Assessment Inventory  
Personality Inventory for Youth  
Personality Research Form (PRF)  
Philadelphia Head Injury Questionnaire  
PIAT-R (Peabody Individual Achievement test)  
PIC-R (Personality Inventory for Children-revised)  
Piers-Harris Children's Self Anapt Scale  
Porteus Mazes  
PPVT-III Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test-III)  
Problem Behavior Inventory  
Problem Experiences Checklist  
Progressive Figures Test  
"Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview, Revised (PDI-R)"

Psychological Tests Recommendations Summary 7/23/07  
Purdue Pegboard  
Quick Neurological Screening test-2 (QNST-2)  
RATC (Roberts Apperception test for Children)  
Raven's Progressive Matrices (all versions)  
Repeatable Battery for Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS)  
Revised Behavior Problem Checklist (RBPC)  
Revised Child Manifest Anxiety Scale  
Revised Token Rest  
Rey 15 Item Test-move to alphabetical order  
Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test-move to alphabetical order  
Reynolds Adolescent Adjustment Screening Inventory  
Reynolds Adolescent Depression Scale  
Reynolds Adolescent Depression Scale  
Reynolds Child Depression Scale  
Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Test  
Rorschach  
Rotter Incomplete Sentence Test  
School Behavior Checklist  
"School Situations Questionnaire (SSQ,SSQ-R)/Survey"  
SCID II Patient Questionnaire  
SCID Screen Patient Questionnaire  
SCL-90-R  
Seashore Rhythm Test  
Selective Reminding Test  
Sensory Perceptual Exam (Klove)  
Severe Impairment Battery (SIB)  
ShIPLEY Institute of Living Scale  
Short Category Test, Booklet Format  
Single and Double Simultaneous Stimulation Test  
Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (16pf)  
Slosson Full Range Intelligence Test (S-FRIT)  
Slosson Intelligence Test Revised  
Social Phobia and Anxiety Inventory  
Speech Sounds Perception Test  
Stanford Binet Intelligence Scale  
State Trait Anger Expression Inventory  
State Trait Anxiety Inventory  
Stroop Color Naming  
Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-Dissociative Disorders (SCID-D)  
Structured Interview of Reported Symptoms  
Substance Abuse Subtle Screening inventory  
Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire  
Suicide Probability Scale  
Symbol Digit Modalities Test  
Symptom Assessment 45 Questionnaire  
Tactual Performance task (TPT)  
Target Test  
TAT (Thematic Apperception Tests)  
Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis  
Teacher Self Report (Achenbach)  
TED (Tasks of Emotional development)  
Tell-Me -A-Story (TEMAS)  
Test of Emotional development (TED)  
Test of Every Day Attention (TEA) (TEA-CH for children)  
Test of Nonverbal Intelligence-3(TONI-3)  
Test of Visual Motor Skills Revised  
Test of Visual Motor Skills, Upper Level  
Test of Visual Perceptual Skills (non-motor)-R  
Test of Visual Perceptual Skills (non-motor)-Upper Level  
Test of Visual Perceptual Skills Revised (TVPS:R)  
Token Test (revised Token Test, Token Test for Children)  
TONI2 Test of Nonverbal Intelligence  
TOVA Test of Variable Attention  
Tower of London  
Trail Making Test  
Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSC)  
Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI)

Validity Indicator Profile (VIP)  
Verbal Fluency  
Vigil Continuous Performance Test  
Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales  
Vineland Social-Emotional Early Childhood Scales  
Visual Search and Attention Test (VSAT)  
Visual-Aural Digit Span Test  
VMI (Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration)  
VOT (Hooper Visual Organization Test)  
WAIS-III (Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III)  
WAIS-R (Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-Revised)  
WAISR-NI: WAISR as Neuropsychological Instrument  
WASI (Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence)  
Wechsler Memory Scale  
Wechsler Memory Scale (WMS)  
Wechsler Memory Scale Revised  
Wechsler Memory Scale-3rd Edition (WMS-III)  
Wechsler Memory Scale-Revised  
Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence Rev (WPPSI-R)  
Wender Utah Rating Scale  
Wepman Auditory Discrimination Test  
Wepman's Auditory Memory Battery  
Western Aphasia Battery  
Western Personality Inventory  
Whitaker Index of Schizophrenic Thinking (WIST)  
Wide Range Achievement test-3rd Edition (WRAT-3)  
Wide Range of Assess of Vis-Motor Abil (WRAVMA)  
WISC-IV (Wechsler Intell Scale for Children)  
Wisconsin Card Sorting Test  
WISC-R (Wechsler Intell Scale for Children Revised)  
Wonderlic Personnel Test  
Woodcock Language Proficiency Battery-R  
Word Fluency/Verbal Fluency  
WRAML-Wide Range Assessment of Memory and Learning  
Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (K-Kit)  
Youth Inventory (Checkmate Plus)  
Youth Self Report (Achenbach)  
Zung Depression Index

**The following tests are not covered as they are educational and excluded from coverage:**

Clinical Attention test -Child (CAT-C)  
Clinical Attention test -Adult (CAT-C)  
WIAT: Weschler Individual Achievement Test for Children  
Wide Range Achievement Test  
Woodcock Johnson Psychoeducational Battery (Achievement)  
Woodcock Johnson Psychoeducational Battery (Cognitive)  
Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests-R  
WRAT: (Wide Range Achievement test 3rd Edition)

**Also known as:**

Not applicable

**Related topics:**

Behavioral Health Services  
Early Intervention Services

**Published:**

*Provider Update, April 2008*  
*Provider Update, July 2008*  
*Provider Update, September 2010*

## Psychological Testing – Frequently Asked Questions for Providers

**Q: Do I collect a co-payment for psychological testing?**

**A:** Psychological testing is considered diagnostic medical testing. Diagnostic medical testing benefits may vary by group. Please contact the Physician and Provider Service Center at (401) 274-4848 or 1-800-230-9050 to verify benefits.

**Q: Does psychological testing count toward a member's annual behavioral health outpatient benefit limit?**

**A:** No, psychological testing is covered as a diagnostic test, not a behavioral health benefit.

**Q: Is psychological testing subject to a member's deductible?**

**A:** Since psychological testing is considered diagnostic medical testing, the allowance may be subject to the deductible. Please contact the Physician and Provider Service Center at (401) 274-4848 or 1-800-230-9050.

**Q: Does psychological testing require a referral for BlueCHiP products?**

**A:** No, psychological testing does not require a referral for BCBSRI participating providers.

**Q: Does BCBSRI have any specific credentialing requirements for technicians administering reports?**

**A:** No. We credential the reporting provider, who is therefore responsible for ensuring that the technician is qualified.

**Q: Is it appropriate to track the time spent providing psychological testing and then submit a claim for all the units at one time?**

**A:** No, the units cannot be bundled together and billed on the same day. You must submit a claim for psychological testing on the actual date that the service is performed, and there must be corresponding documentation in the record to support the claims submission.

**Q: How should time spent on test interpretation and report writing be reflected in the medical record?**

**A:** Records or supporting documents created at the time of testing and report generation should document time accurately.

**Q: Should the feedback session be billed as a testing session?**

**A:** No, the feedback session is not considered psychological testing and

should not be billed that way. The feedback session may meet the CPT guidelines for psychotherapy, or for physicians, evaluation and management services.

**Q: Does BCBSRI allow psychological testing and a 90801 (Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview Examination) on the same day?**

**A:** Yes, you may submit claims for psychological testing and a 90801 on the same date of service. You may also submit claims for a 90802 on the same date of service as psychological testing. Each service must independently meet all reporting/coding requirements and not overlap (e.g., the time of 90801 is not counted towards any testing services).

**Q: Do the limits to yearly hours apply to calendar year or benefit year?**

**A:** Calendar year.

**Q: Does BCBSRI distinguish between psychological and neuropsychological testing?**

**A:** Yes, BCBSRI follows CPT coding rules.

**Q: Do the same testing limits apply to testing performed in an inpatient as well as outpatient setting?**

**A:** Yes, testing performed when a member is inpatient will count toward the testing limits.

**Q: What is the process to request additional units of testing?**

**A:** The testing limits are a payment limit; therefore you may continue to perform additional testing. However, you will not receive additional payment for testing beyond the limits. Members may not be charged for additional hours exceeding the payment limit.

**Q: Does BCBSRI allow claims with CPT codes 96101 and 96118 on the same date of service by the same provider?**

**A:** Yes

**Q: Does “interpretation and report” include time spent reviewing records or documentation from other sources?**

**A:** No, interpretation and reporting time should only reflect time spent interpreting the tests that have been administered. The review of external records is considered not separately reimbursed; therefore this time cannot be charged to the member.

**Q: How do these limits apply to CPTcodes 96103 and 96120 (psychological and neuropsychological testing administered by a computer)?**

**A:** These limits do not apply to CPT codes 96103 and 96120; however, please be advised that the same provider may only submit these codes once per date of service.

**Q: Can I perform psychological testing and psychotherapy on the same date of service?**

**A:** No, the following therapy codes will be considered not separately reimbursed if provided on the same date of service as 96101, 96102, 96116, 96118, or 96119: 90804, 90805, 90806, 90807, 90808, 90809, 90810, 90811, 90812, 90813, 90814, 90815, 90823, 90824, 90826, 90827.

**Q: If I conduct an initial assessment and determine that the testing needs of the patient exceed the testing limits, can I refer the patient to another provider?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: What does it mean that the limits are per “provider or group”?**

**A:** Providers within the same group practice are considered one provider for the purposes of these limits. If a BCBSRI member reaches the testing limits with one provider in a group practice, no additional payments will be made for testing rendered by another provider in the same group practice.

**Q: What are the claims submission guidelines when a patient completes a test administered by the computer for part of the testing session, and the remainder of the session is spent with the psychologist?**

**A:** You should always follow CPT guidelines. Presently, it would be appropriate to submit a claim for the computer test and a 96101 or 96118, provided that the actual time spent with the psychologist met the CPT guideline “per hour of the psychologist’s time.” You cannot factor time spent on the computer test into the 96101 or 96118 for that day. For example, if a patient spent 15 minutes completing a computer test and then spent only 45 minutes with the psychologist, it would not be appropriate to submit a claim for 96101 or 96118 for the 15 minutes spent on computer testing. Additionally, any time spent interpreting the test should not be reported using 96101 or 96118. These two services represent interview and testing by the physician or psychologist and the time spent **integrating** multiple test results into a report.

**Q: Does psychological testing include observation of the patient in a**

**social setting?**

**A:** No, observation is not a covered service.

**Q: Are consultations with teachers and other third parties considered part of the psychological testing?**

**A:** No. These services are not considered psychological testing and are not separately reimbursed.

**Q: Does this policy apply to both adults and children?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: For children, how do I determine if the testing is the responsibility of the school system or the patient's health insurance plan?**

**A:** Please refer to Rhode Island General Law, Title 16, Chapters 21, 24, 25, and 26 and applicable regulations governing the health of school children and special education of handicapped children or comparable requirements established by federal law or state law of applicable jurisdiction. Testing performed for educational purposes is not covered.

**Q: Can I submit a claim for a psychotherapy session when I perform psychological testing, and the payment limit has been met?**

No. You must follow CPT coding rules. It is incorrect to report psychological testing as psychotherapy.

**Q: How do these limits apply if the member has had psychological testing prior to July 1, 2008?**

**A:** The payment limit is effective July 1, 2008. Therefore testing conducted prior to that date will not count toward the payment limit for 2008.

**Q: Can a hospital get reimbursed if they submit one of the testing codes?**

**A:** Yes, the hospital can bill and be paid for the service only when performed outpatient by a provider that is an employee of the hospital; otherwise the provider may file and be paid.

**Q: Can 96111 be filed by a pediatrician?**

**A:** No. 96111 is extended testing and is limited to the following specialties: Psychiatrist, or Neuro-psychologist, or Psychologist, or Pediatric neurodevelopmental specialist.

employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center . If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions.

This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice.

 [Back to Previous Page](#)