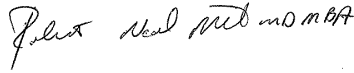


Origination Date: 02/10/09	Revision Date(s): 05/11
Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	



Approved: Robert Mills, MD

Date: 05/26/110

Description: Psychological testing is defined as the use of one or more standardized measurements, instruments, or procedures to observe or record human behavior, and requires the application of appropriate normative data for interpretation or classification. Psychological testing may be used to guide differential diagnosis in the treatment of psychiatric disorders.

Authorization/Approval Criteria:

Psychological testing is covered when ALL of the following criteria are met:

1. The purpose of testing is to obtain diagnostic clarification or clinical information to assist with treatment planning.
2. The patient has been assessed by a behavioral healthcare provider prior to testing.
3. Needed clinical information cannot be obtained through routine diagnostic assessment and/or behavioral observations.
4. The provider is a licensed doctoral level psychologist or psychiatrist who is adequately trained in the administration and interpretation of psychological instruments.
5. Requested tests are valid, reliable, and current.

Exclusion Criteria:

Psychological testing will *not* be authorized for any of the following reasons:

1. Testing is for educational or vocational purposes, including determining eligibility for educational services.
2. Testing is for legal purposes, including custody evaluations, parenting assessments, disability evaluations, or other court-ordered testing.
3. The validity of testing would be significantly compromised by recent drug or alcohol use.
4. Hours requested for the administration, scoring, interpretation, and reporting exceed the generally accepted standard for the specific testing instrument(s)
5. Needed clinical information can be obtained through a diagnostic assessment and/or behavioral observations (e.g. standard ADHD checklist).
6. Testing primarily for diagnosing ADHD unless clinical interventions and results of other appropriate behavioral rating scales are inconclusive.

Information to be Submitted with Pre-Authorization Request:

Requests to perform psychological testing must be made in writing. Information that should be provided is outlined below. A Psychological Testing request form is available on the ODS website at www.odscompanies.com.

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1. Current DSM-IV-TR Axis I and Axis II diagnosis, including working diagnosis
2. Specific referral question or questions. Include why they cannot be answered by means of a diagnostic assessment and/or behavioral observations.
3. History of present illness
4. Previous testing
5. Treatment implications. Please address the specific ways that the testing results will inform the member's treatment and have a meaningful impact upon treatment planning.
6. Specific tests required
7. Total hours requested

References:

Camara, WJ, Nathan, JS, Puente, AE. (2000). Psychological Test Usage: Implications in Professional Psychology. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. 31(2): 141-154.

Eisman, EJ et al. Problems and Limitations in Using Psychological Assessment in the Contemporary Health Care Delivery System. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. 31(2): 131-140.

Kubiszyn, TW, et al. (2000). Empirical Support for Psychological Assessment in Clinical Health Care Settings. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. 31(2) 199-130.

Meyer, GJ et al.. (2001). Psychological Testing and Psychological Assessment: A Review of Evidence and Issues. *American Psychologist*. 56(2): 128-165.