# Medical Necessity Guideline

**Medical Necessity Guideline (MNG) Title:** Neuropsychological Testing  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MNG #: 22</th>
<th>☒ SCO ☒ One Care</th>
<th>Prior Authorization Needed? ☒ Yes ☐ No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical: ☒</td>
<td>Operational: ☐</td>
<td>Informational: ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare Benefit: ☒ Yes ☐ No</td>
<td>Approval Date: 02/06/2020</td>
<td>Effective Date: 04/25/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Revised Date: 5/5/2020</td>
<td>Next Annual Review Date: 02/06/2021</td>
<td>Retire Date:</td>
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## OVERVIEW:
Neuropsychological Tests are evaluations designed to determine the functional consequences of known or suspected brain injury through testing of neurocognitive domains responsible for language, perception, memory, learning, problem solving, adaptation and three-dimensional manipulation. These tests are carried out on members who have suffered neurocognitive effects of medical disorders that impinge directly or indirectly on the brain. These tests consist primarily of individually administered ability tests that demonstrate the member’s level of competence in a cognitive domain. They not a substitute for clinical interviews, medical or neurologic examinations, or other diagnostic procedures used to diagnose neuropathology. The tests can aid in treatment planning and to address questions regarding goals, efficacy, and member disposition. Preauthorization by CCA is required.

## Initiation Criteria:
- Testing must be performed by a qualified provider.
- Testing may be used to assist with diagnosis and management following clinical evaluation when a mental illness or neuropsychological abnormality is suspected;
- Testing is used to provide a differential diagnosis from a range of neurological/psychological disorder that present with similar symptoms, (e.g., differentiation between pseudo-dementia and depression);
- Testing is used to determine the clinical and functional significant of brain abnormality;
- Testing is used to delineate the specific cognitive basis of functional complaints.

## DECISION GUIDELINES:
### Clinical Eligibility:
- Testing may be used to assist with diagnosis and management following clinical evaluation when a mental illness or neuropsychological abnormality is suspected;
- Testing is used to provide a differential diagnosis from a range of neurological/psychological disorder that present with similar symptoms, (e.g., differentiation between pseudo-dementia and depression);
- Testing is used to determine the clinical and functional significant of brain abnormality;
- Testing is used to delineate the specific cognitive basis of functional complaints.
Determination of need:
N/A

AUTHORIZATION:

- Typically, neuropsychological testing will require from twelve to sixteen hours to complete, including administration, scoring and interpretation. If the testing exceeds sixteen hours, a request for additional hours should be reviewed prior to approval.
- In general, testing should not be done within six months of each other. If testing in a period is pursued in timeframe less than six months, a review should be completed.
- Testing is not to be administered for education or vocational purposes without a review documenting clear rationale.

96116 Neurobehavioral status exam (clinical assessment of thinking, reasoning and judgment, [eg, acquired knowledge, attention, language, memory, planning and problem solving, and visual spatial abilities]), by physician or other qualified health care professional, both face-to-face time with the patient and time interpreting test results and preparing the report; first hour

96121 Neurobehavioral status exam (clinical assessment of thinking, reasoning and judgment, [eg, acquired knowledge, attention, language, memory, planning and problem solving, and visual spatial abilities]), by physician or other qualified health care professional, both face-to-face time with the patient and time interpreting test results and preparing the report; each additional hour (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

96130 Psychological testing evaluation services by physician or other qualified health care professional, including integration of patient data, interpretation of standardized test results and clinical data, clinical decision making, treatment planning and report, and interactive feedback to the patient, family member(s) or caregiver(s), when performed; first hour

96131 Psychological testing evaluation services by physician or other qualified health care professional, including integration of patient data, interpretation of standardized test results and clinical data, clinical decision making, treatment planning and report, and interactive feedback to the patient, family member(s) or caregiver(s), when performed; each additional hour (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
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96132 Neuropsychological testing evaluation services by physician or other qualified health care professional, including integration of patient data, interpretation of standardized test results and clinical data, clinical decision making, treatment planning and report, and interactive feedback to the patient, family member(s) or caregiver(s), when performed. (First hour)

96133 Neuropsychological testing evaluation services by physician or other qualified health care professional, including integration of patient data, interpretation of standardized test results and clinical data, clinical decision making, treatment planning and report, and interactive feedback to the patient, family member(s) or caregiver(s), when performed; each additional hour (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

96136 Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by physician or other qualified health care professional, two or more tests, any method; first 30 minutes

96137 Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by physician or other qualified health care professional, two or more tests, any method; each additional 30 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

96138 Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by technician, two or more tests, any method; first 30 minutes

96139 Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by technician, two or more tests, any method; each additional 30 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

96146 Psychological or neuropsychological test administration, with single automated, standardized instrument via electronic platform, with automated result only (one hour)

RELATED REFERENCES:

Medical Necessity Guideline


Medical Necessity Guideline


ATTACHMENTS:

EXHIBIT A:

EXHIBIT B

REVISION LOG:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVISION DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/06/2020</td>
<td>Reviewed and approved by the Medical Policy Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/5/2020</td>
<td>Billing codes and descriptions updated by Livia Ataide</td>
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APPROVALS:

Dr. Peggy Johnson, MD
CCA Senior Clinical Lead [Print]
Signature

Vice President & Chief of Psychiatry
Title [Print]
8/28/2019
Date

Lori Tishler, MD, MPH
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02/06/2020
Date