

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 18.6
TITLE: PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(3)(ix)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

March 13, 1992

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

96100

III. DESCRIPTION

Psychological tests are standardized tests that are designed to evaluate personality traits. These tests are administered by a qualified specialist who must be currently licensed or certified in the State to administer, score, and interpret psychological tests.

IV. POLICY

Psychological testing and assessment (96100) is generally limited to six hours in a fiscal year when medically or psychologically necessary and in conjunction with otherwise covered psychotherapy. The medical necessity must be established prior to the actual testing, e.g., there must either be a diagnosis (or provisional diagnosis) of a mental disorder and the testing must be appropriate for the diagnosis.

Note: Psychological tests are considered diagnostic services and are not counted against the 2 psychotherapy visits per week.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Testing or assessment in excess of these limits requires review for medical necessity. Psychological testing is always secondary to a diagnosed mental disorder (or provisional diagnosis) and must be necessary for the treatment (or assessment) of the diagnosed mental disorder. A qualified provider can only make such a diagnosis.

VI. EXCLUSIONS

A. Payment for the Reitan-Indiana battery (i.e., screening tests that contains a variety of items using language, including naming common objects, following verbal, and writing familiar words) when administered to a patient under age five and for self-administered test to patients under age 13.

B. Payment for psychological testing and assessment as part of an assessment for academic placement. This exclusion encompasses all psychological testing related to educational programs, issues or deficiencies. CHAMPVA does not cover testing to determine whether a beneficiary has a learning disability if the primary or sole basis for the testing is to assess for a learning disability.

C. Psychological testing related to child custody disputes or job placement.

D. Psychological testing done for general screening (in the absence of specific symptoms of a covered mental disorder) to determine if individuals being tested are suffering from a mental disorder.

E. Teacher and parental referrals for psychological testing.

F. Testing related to diagnosed specific learning disorders or learning disabilities [encompasses reading disorder (also called dyslexia), mathematics disorder, disorder of written expression and learning disorder not otherwise specified]. See [Chapter 2, Section 18.7](#), *Specific Learning Disorders*.

G. Payment consideration for testing for a patient in a residential treatment center or partial hospitalization program is already included in the per diem rate and cannot be separately reimbursed. Additional payment for patients in these settings cannot be made even when billed by an individual professional provider not employed by or under contract with the partial hospitalization program.

END OF POLICY