

Billing for Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing

Proper coding of the specific services provided, for psychological and neuropsychological testing, can help **expedite claim processing and support accurate claim payment**. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) may reach out to you by phone or email when we note incorrect coding patterns.

The following are common Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes for billing psychological and neuropsychological testing services:

Code	Service
96127	BRIEF EMOTIONAL/BEHAV ASSMT
96130 +96131	PSYCL TST EVAL PHYS/QHP 1 ST +PSYCL TST EVAL PHYS/QHP EA
96132 +96133	NRPSYC TST EVAL PHYS/QHP 1 ST +NRPSYC TST EVAL PHYS/QHP EA
96136 +96137	PSYCL/NRPSYC TST PHY/QHP 1 ST +PSYCL/NRPSYC TST PHY/QHP EA
96138 +96139	PSYCL/NRPSYC TECH 1 ST +PSYCL/NRPSYC TST TECH EA
96146	PSYCL/NRPSYC TST AUTO RESULT

Billing Reminders

- According to CPT guidelines, codes **96130-96133** and **96136-96139** are for a **psychological or neuropsychological assessment**. BCBSTX doesn't recognize these codes for brief screenings or assessments to monitor patient progress during routine therapy sessions or psychiatric follow-up visits unless followed by a comprehensive assessment. CPT guidelines provide specific brief screening codes for these purposes.
- **Base codes** (96130, 96132, 96136, 96138) may be used only **once per testing episode**. If testing occurs across multiple days, the base code may be used one time at the start of testing.
- Determine whether the testing is **mainly psychological or neuropsychological**. Psychological and neuropsychological evaluation codes shouldn't be applied to the same episode of service.
- **Time-based CPT codes** billed by one servicing provider **shouldn't overlap**. For example, if a Beck Depression Inventory is administered during a 60-minute therapy session, a 60-minute therapy code and a brief behavioral assessment code may be billed. An additional half-hour or one hour of testing shouldn't be billed since only 60 minutes was spent with the member.

Learn more by reviewing the **Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing [Clinical Payment and Coding Policy](#)** on our provider website.

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This material is for informational/educational purposes only and is not intended to be a substitute for the independent medical judgment of a physician or a definitive source for coding claims. The reference to any particular brand, type or method of testing is solely for informational purposes and is not, and should not be, construed as an endorsement, representation or recommendation for any particular test. Physicians and other health care providers are encouraged to use their own best medical judgment based upon all available information and the condition of the patient in determining the best course of treatment. Health care providers are instructed to submit claims using the most appropriate code(s) based upon the medical record documentation and coding guidelines and reference materials.