New CPT Codes Applicable to Psychological Testing Effective January 1, 2019

The term “CPT Code” stands for Current Procedural Terminology, the nomenclature used to describe health care services and procedures. CPT codes are published by the American Medical Association and are utilized by health care providers when billing insurance or governmental programs for services rendered.

Effective January 1, 2019, there are some significant changes to the CPT codes which are applicable to psychological or neuropsychological testing. A brief summary regarding these changes is provided below, along with links to helpful resources regarding their implementation.

Please be advised that the CPT codes discussed below are applicable to the administration and interpretation of psychological tests by a qualified health care professional and are not applicable to test administration and scoring services when performed by a technician.

*This information is intended to serve as a summary of key changes, and not for use as a practice guide. Practitioners who utilize psychological or neuropsychological testing are encouraged to consider additional training, and/or specialized workshops on this subject matter if needed.*

What Has Changed?

*The CPT Code for psychological testing is no longer 96101.*

Professional services, such as test selection, clinical decision-making and test interpretation, previously billed with CPT code 96101, should now be billed using psychological evaluation CPT codes 96130 and 96131.

CPT Code 96130 is used for psychological testing evaluation services by a qualified health care professional, which includes the 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, for the first hour. For each additional hour, CPT code 96131 is listed separately. An additional 31 minutes of services must be provided, at minimum, in order to bill 96131.

*Time spent administering and scoring psychological and neuropsychological tests is now considered to be billable time*

A major change is that providers are now able to bill separately for time spent administering and scoring both psychological and neuropsychological tests. CPT Code 96136 is applicable to psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by a qualified health care professional, when there are two or more tests involved, for the first 30 minutes. Each additional 30 minutes is billed using CPT code 96137. An additional 16 minutes of such services must be provided, at minimum, in order to bill 96137. In instances where a single psychological
or neuropsychological instrument is administered via an electronic platform (computer) and there is an automated result, CPT Code 96138 is applicable.

**The CPT Code for neuropsychological testing is no longer 96118**

Neuropsychological testing, previously billed using CPT Code 96118, is now billed using CPT Code 96132. CPT Code 96132 applies to neuropsychological testing evaluation services by a 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, for the first hour. For each additional hour, CPT Code 96133 is billed separately. An additional 31 minutes of services must be performed, at minimum, in order to bill 96133.

Additional Resources:

- [https://navigatingtheinsurancemaze.com/2019cptcodes/](https://navigatingtheinsurancemaze.com/2019cptcodes/)

Resources from the American Psychological Association (APA):

- [2019 Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing CPT Codes & Descriptions](https://www.apaservices.org/practice/reimbursement/health-codes/testing/changes)
- [Crosswalk for 2019 Psychological Testing and Evaluation CPT® Codes](https://www.apaservices.org/practice/reimbursement/health-codes/testing/changes)
- [Crosswalk for 2019 Neuropsychological Testing and Evaluation CPT® Codes](https://www.apaservices.org/practice/reimbursement/health-codes/testing/changes)