March 2012

## Psychological Testing Reminders for EPSDT Medi-Cal billing

Before psychological testing is conducted a referral reason should be documented in the clients chart record. The
reason for referral should be specific. The progress note should document the reason and purpose of the psychological
testing. The referral question must also be listed on the psychological testing report.

Examples of valid referral questions:

Client has been reported to speak with persons not physically present, and reports seeing people and hearing voices when no one else is physically present. Testing requested to rule out possible psychotic process.

Client has shown signs of cognitive impairment that may be limiting client's ability to benefit from therapy. Testing requested in order to determine how to best tailor interventions to the client.

Any psychological testing must be relevant to the current/proposed client service plan. Psychological testing that
results in treatment recommendations should be reflected in the client's chart record.

For example, if a medication evaluation is recommended, then efforts to follow through with this recommendation should be evident in the chart record. Psychological testing results recommending a revised diagnosis should be reflected on the Master Treatment Plan. The client service plan should be updated or revised to reflect the recommendations in the psychological testing report.

Any billing for testing must eventually result in a report and interpretation of the results that must be in the chart record.
 If the case is closed before the psychological testing is completed, then a summary of any findings must be in the chart.

When only one test instrument is administered (i.e. the Child Behavior Checklist) and is billed as psychological testing then a progress note needs to be written describing the test used and summarizing the findings.

- Progress notes documenting psychological testing should define the tests used, with both the actual name of the test
  and its acronym. Notes should make comments (relatively brief) about the client's general responses to the test(s),
  whether their performance was notable in any way. For example, which tests on which they had difficulty, on which they
  did well, and or, refused to complete
- Psychological testing codes 96101 and 96103 are not used for history gathering activity in preparation for psychological testing. History gathering should be billed to 90899-6 Comp Com Svc MH- Other assessment.
- Speech and Language assessments are not billable to Medi-Cal.
- Psychological tests utilized should be <u>validated and normed</u> according to the child's <u>age group and population</u>. Please see the American Psychological Associations website: <a href="http://www.apa.org/science/programs/testing/test-clearinghouse.aspx">http://www.apa.org/science/programs/testing/test-clearinghouse.aspx</a> for further information.
- Use the proper psychological testing codes:

**Psych Test by Psychologist (96101)**: This code is used for psychological testing that includes psycho diagnostic assessment of personality, psychopathology, emotionality, intellectual abilities conducted by a psychologist with interpretation and report.

- Psych Test by Computer (96103): This type of psychological testing includes psycho-diagnostic assessment of
  personality, psychopathology, emotionality, intellectual abilities by a computer, including the psychologist's time for
  interpretation and report.
- · Psychological Testing is always billed by the minute.
- Psychological Testing conducted by student interns <u>must be co-signed by the supervising clinical psychologist</u>. This
  includes all associated progress notes and the final psychological report summarizing the findings.