



PROVIDER ALERT

Psychological Testing Authorization Plans

December 24, 2020

Optum Maryland would like to inform providers of changes to the process for requesting authorization for Psychological Testing. On December 28, 2020, the Psychological Testing authorization plan will be replaced by two separate authorization plans, an adult plan (to be used for participants aged 18 and older) and a child plan (to be used for participants aged 17 or younger). This change was made to allow for modifications to requests for psychological testing with children which provide more flexibility to providers. These modifications are described below.

Flexibility between Evaluation Units and Testing Units for Children

In response to providers' requests to have additional flexibility in how they utilize authorized psychological testing hours for children, the new Child authorization plan will allow providers to request up to three (3) units of code 96131. The units for 96131 will default to one (1) but may be manually increased to up to 3 by the person requesting authorization. Please note that the cap of eight (8) hours for combined testing and evaluation remains.

Referrals for Children Under six years old

In addition, an assessment by a licensed Mental Health (MH) professional is no longer required for children under six; for children under six, a referral by a pediatrician is acceptable. As such, the questions on the child form have been modified to account for pediatrician referral.

Selection of the "***Psychological Testing Request Child***" authorization plan will result in the user automatically being presented with the child testing form to complete.

If you have questions about the information contained in this alert, please contact customer services at 1-800-888-1965.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team