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MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
MCO Transmittal No. 186
Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization Transmittal No. 21
September 28, 2023

TO: Managed Care Organizations
 Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization
 Psychologists

FROM: Sandra Kick, Director *Sandra E. Kick*
 Medical Benefits Management

RE: Clarification on Payment Responsibility for Psychological Testing for Medical and Behavioral Health Services

NOTE: **Please ensure that the appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the content of this transmittal.**

The purpose of this transmittal is to clarify the payment responsibility between the managed care organizations (MCOs) and the behavioral health administrative services organization (BHASO) for psychological testing and evaluation services rendered to Medical Assistance participants. **Payment responsibility for psychological testing is dependent upon the primary diagnosis.**

BHASO Responsibility:

The BHASO is responsible for reimbursement of psychological testing services when the primary diagnosis is one of the carved out behavioral health diagnoses listed in COMAR 10.67.08.02. The BHASO will reimburse for initial psychological testing when an individual is referred by a licensed mental health professional to rule out or confirm one or more behavioral health diagnoses along with a non-carved out diagnosis. If a non-carved out diagnosis is confirmed as a result of the testing, all subsequent testing related to the non-carved out diagnosis would be the responsibility of the MCO. Examples of cases where subsequent testing may be ordered includes neurological monitoring or reevaluation of a previously confirmed diagnosis.

All services must meet medical necessity criteria and be authorized by the BHASO.

MCO Responsibility:

The MCOs are responsible for reimbursement of psychological testing related to diagnoses that are not carved out behavioral health diagnoses and when psychological testing is required for preauthorization prior to a medical surgical procedure regardless of the primary diagnosis. Examples of procedures that a patient may be required to receive psychological testing for may

include, but are not limited to, bariatric surgery, cochlear implants, or deep brain stimulation to treat a neurological or mental health condition. MCOs must ensure the psychologists performing the testing are part of their provider networks to facilitate reimbursement.

The following psychological testing codes are covered:

CPT Codes	CPT Code Description	Behavioral Health Coverage/ BHASO*	Somatic Coverage/ MCO**
96130	Psychological testing evaluation services by physician or other qualified professional...treatment planning and report and interactive feedback to the patient, family members, caregivers first hour	Yes	Yes
96131	Psychological testing evaluation and feedback by physician or other qualified professional, each additional hour	Yes	Yes
96132	Neuropsychological testing evaluation services by physician or other qualified professional...treatment planning and report and interactive feedback to the patient, family members, caregivers first hour	No	Yes
96133	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by professional, each additional 30 minutes	No	Yes
96136	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by a	Yes	Yes

	physician or other qualified professional, first 30 minutes		
96137	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by professional, each additional 30 minutes	Yes	Yes
96138	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by a technician, first 30 minutes	Yes	Yes
96139	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by technician, each additional 30 minutes	Yes	Yes
<p>*The BHASO is responsible for reimbursement of psychological testing codes when the following conditions are met: the primary diagnosis is a carved out behavioral health diagnosis in COMAR 10.67.08.02 or the testing is to come to an initial diagnosis. Prior authorization is required.</p> <p>**The MCOs are responsible for reimbursement of psychological testing when the following conditions are met: the primary diagnosis is not a carved out behavioral health diagnosis in COMAR 10.67.08.02, or when the participant is referred to testing prior to a medical or surgical procedure regardless of diagnosis. Prior authorization requirements will be determined by each MCO.</p>			

For managed care policy questions related to this transmittal, please contact Aran Kim, Chief, Division of HealthChoice Provider Network Management at aran.kim@maryland.gov.

For behavioral health policy questions related to this transmittal, please contact mdh.mabehavioralhealth@maryland.gov.