MDwise

Guidelines for:

Developmental Testing

Developmental testing is typically used in pre-school aged children with developmental delays. This type of testing is used to determine what early intervention services are needed and can be used to screen and assess for autism spectrum disorders. Early intervention services address delays in speech, gross and fine motor skills, adaptive behavior, cognitive development and social skills.

A referral for developmental testing should include:

1. Presenting problems.
2. Diagnostic questions to be answered.
3. Tests that will be used to answer the questions and the amount of time needed for each test. The tests chosen should be appropriate for answering the diagnostic questions.
4. How treatment planning will be affected by the results.
5. If previous testing has been completed, have those results been obtained, reviewed, and utilized to determine what additional information is needed to answer the diagnostic questions.

The CPT code typically used for this type of testing are 96110 or 96111-extended.

Developmental testing can be conducted by a primary medical provider (MD) or a doctoral level, licensed psychologist who has specific training and experience in administering and interpreting standardized tests.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZATION

1. Tests must be reliable and valid for answering the diagnostic questions under consideration. The tests must be the most recent editions, be age appropriate and meet the developmental and cultural requirements of the patient.
2. A behavioral health assessment needs to be completed by a behavioral health care provider or primary medical provider prior to testing.
3. A clear and specific rationale for testing must be provided. Additionally, it should address the impact on treatment planning.
4. A Psychological Testing Prior Authorization Request Form must be completed. The psychologist must complete the section that covers the tests to be given and the amount of time needed for each. The referring clinician can complete the sections that cover clinical information and diagnostic questions to be answered.

MEDICAL NECESSITY

These three guidelines need to be met for testing to be authorized:

1. The tests selected must clearly provide the answers to the diagnostic questions put forth by the referring clinician and clearly relate to the treatment of the patient.
2. The referral questions can not be answered by means of a diagnostic interview or behavioral observations.
3. The test results will have a meaningful impact on treatment.

REASONS FOR NON-AUTHORIZATION

1. Testing primarily for educational or vocational purposes.
2. Testing for legal purposes.
3. Testing primarily for cognitive rehabilitation purposes.
4. Testing that exceeds established standards for administration time.
5. Routine entrance into a treatment program.