

Psychological Testing

Criteria for Authorization

Prior to psychological testing, the individual must be assessed by a behavioral health professional. The diagnostic interview determines the need for and extent of the psychological testing. Testing may be completed at the onset of treatment to assist in the differential diagnosis and/or help resolve specific treatment planning questions. It also may occur later in treatment if the individual's condition has not progressed and there is no clear explanation for the lack of improvement.

I. Severity of Need

Criteria A, B and C must be met:

- A. The reason for testing must be based on a specific referral question or questions from the treating provider and related directly to the psychiatric or psychological treatment of the individual.
- B. The specific referral question(s) cannot be answered adequately by means of clinical interview and/or behavioral observations.
- C. The testing results based on the referral question(s) are reasonably expected to provide information that will effectively guide the course of treatment.

II. Intensity and Quality of Care

Criteria A and B must be met:

- A. A licensed doctoral-level psychologist (Ph.D., Psy.D. or Ed.D.), or other qualified provider as permitted by applicable state and/or federal law, who is credentialed by and contracted with Magellan, administers the tests.
- B. Requested tests must be valid and reliable, and the most recent version of the test must be used. The instrument must be age-appropriate and meet the individual's developmental, linguistics, and cultural requirements.

III. Exclusion Criteria

Psychological testing will not be authorized under any of the following conditions:

- A. The testing is primarily for educational or vocational purposes.
- B. The testing is primarily for the purpose of determining if an individual is a candidate for a specific type or dosage of psychotropic medication.
- C. Unless allowed by the individual's benefit plan, the testing is primarily for the purpose of determining if an individual is a candidate for a medical or surgical procedure.
- D. The testing results could be invalid or uninterruptible due to the influence of a substance, substance abuse, substance withdrawal, or any situation that would preclude valid psychological testing results from being obtained (e.g., an

individual who is uncooperative or lacks the ability to comprehend the necessary directions for having psychological testing administered).

- E. The testing is primarily for diagnosing Attention-Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), unless the diagnostic interview, clinical observations, and results of appropriate behavioral rating scales are inconclusive.
- F. Two or more tests are requested that measure the same functional domain.
- G. Testing is primarily for legal purposes, including custody evaluations, parenting assessments, or other court or government ordered or requested testing.
- H. Requested tests are experimental, antiquated, or not validated.
- I. The testing request is made prior to the completion of a diagnostic interview by a behavioral health provider, unless pre-approved by Magellan.
- J. The testing is primarily to determine the extent or type of neurological impairment, unless allowed by the individual's benefit plan.
- K. The number of hours requested for the administration, scoring, interpretation and reporting exceeds the generally accepted standard for the specific testing instrument(s), unless justified by particular testing circumstances.¹

¹ Murphy, L.L., Spies, R.A., & Plake, B.S. (Eds.) Tests in Print VII: An Index to Tests, Test Reviews, and the Literature on Specific Tests. Lincoln, Nebraska: Buros Institute of Mental Measurement, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. (2006).