

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING AND ASSESSMENT

Reviewed 4/13/06

History: A Clinical Neuropsychologist is a professional psychologist who applies principles of assessment and intervention based upon the scientific study of human behavior as it relates to normal and abnormal functioning of the central nervous system. Quantitative methods, originating from the fields of psychology and behavioral neurology, are used in the clinical neuropsychological examination to evaluate cognitive abilities in individuals with known or suspected brain dysfunction.

Indications: Neuropsychological testing by a Clinical Neuropsychologist is a useful therapy for patients when determined to be medically necessary and will aid in the diagnosis, management and longitudinal care of patients with brain damage or organic brain disease under the following conditions:

- When there has been a significant mental status change that is not due to a metabolic disorder and has not responded to acute medical therapy
- When there has been a significant behavioral change, memory loss or organic brain injury

AND When the results of the testing will change the treatment plan and this is documented as to how this will occur in the requesting provider's medical records.

AND when ANY of the following medical conditions are present:

- head injury (open or closed)
- stroke
- brain tumor
- cerebral anoxic or hypoxic episode
- central nervous system infection
- neoplasms or vascular injury to the CNS
- neurodegenerative disorders
- demyelinating disease
- extrapyramidal disease
- metabolic encephalopathy (associated with hepatic or renal disease) after stabilization of condition
- exposure to agents known to be associated with cerebral dysfunction

Neuropsychological testing is not considered medically necessary and thus, is not indicated for:

- mental retardation
- autism
- developmental disability
- learning disability
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Tourette's syndrome
- Dementia in which the treatment plan will not be altered by the results

Neuropsychological testing is also not covered for:

- Vocational counseling (employment-related)
- Educational (assessment and planning)
- IQ testing

Note: testing, when medically indicated and covered under the above criteria, is expected to be accomplished within 8 hours. Testing exceeding this time frame is subject to pre-payment medical necessity review.

References: Aetna Clinical Policy Bulletin 3/25/2005, Cigna Healthcare Coverage Position 12/15/2004, Up To Date 2005
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