

Central Nervous System Assessments / Tests (e.g. Neuro-Cognitive)

Concussion Vital Signs provides an OBJECTIVE, PRECISE, STANDARDIZED, and CORE set of neurocognitive or brain function clinical endpoints which supports the evaluation and management of concussive events and enables clinical guidelines. Generally, there may be three possible procedure coding events... **(1) a testing, interpretation, and reporting event , (2) the time a clinician takes INTEGRATING the test results into other sources of clinical data, and possibly (3) billing for Rating Scales.**

NeuroPsych and Neurological Conditions

Estimated Reimbursement Rate*

96118 Testing & Interpretation	Neuropsychological testing (e.g., Halstead - Reitan Neuropsychological Battery, Wechsler Memory Scales, Concussion Vital Signs and Wisconsin Card Sorting Test), per hour of the qualified healthcare professional time, both face-to-face time <i>administering tests to the patient and time interpreting these test results and preparing the report.</i>	\$98
96118 Additional Professional	96118 is also used in those circumstances when additional time is necessary to integrate other sources of clinical data, including previously completed and reported technician- and computer-administered tests. ▶ (Do not report 96118 for the interpretation and report of 96119 or 96120) ◀	
96119 Testing & Interpretation	Neuropsychological testing (e.g. Halstead - Reitan Neuropsychological Battery, Wechsler Memory Scales, Concussion Vital Signs and Wisconsin Card Sorting Test), with qualified health care professional interpretation and report, <i>administered by technician</i> , per hour of technician time, face-to-face.	\$81
96120 Testing & Interpretation	Neuropsychological testing (e.g. Wisconsin Card Sorting Test, Concussion Vital Signs), <i>administered by a computer</i> , with qualified health care professional interpretation and report.	\$48

Psychological and Psychiatric Conditions

Estimated Reimbursement Rate*

96101 Testing & Interpretation	Psychological testing (includes psych assessment of emotionality, intellectual abilities, cognition, personality and psychopathology, e.g., MMPI, Rorschach, WAIS, Concussion Vital Signs), per hour of the qualified healthcare professional time, both face-to-face time <i>administering tests to the patient and time interpreting these test results and preparing the report.</i>	\$80
96101 Additional Professional	96101 is also used in those circumstances when additional time is necessary to integrate other sources of clinical data, including previously completed and reported technician and computer administered tests ▶ (Do not report 96101 for the interpretation and report of 95102, 96103) ◀	
96102 Testing & Interpretation	Psychological testing (includes psych assessment of emotionality, intellectual abilities, cognition, personality and psychopathology. e.g., MMPI, Concussion Vital Signs, and WAIS), with qualified health care professional interpretation and report, <i>administered by technician</i> , per hour of technician time, face-to-face.	\$64
96103 Testing & Interpretation	Psychological testing (includes psych assessment of emotionality, intellectual abilities, personality and psychopathology, e.g., MMPI, Concussion Vital Signs), <i>administered by a computer</i> , with qualified health care professional interpretation and report.	\$28

About 96118 and 96101... These Codes are reported for psychological and neuropsychological test administration by the qualified health care professional with subsequent interpretation and report. It is also **reported for the integration of information obtained from other sources which is then incorporated in the more comprehensive interpretation of the meaning the tests results in the context of all testing and assessments. The administration of the tests is completed for the purposes of a physical health evaluation and management.** The potentially confusing aspect of this code is that when the qualified health care professional performs the tests personally, the test specific scoring and interpretation is counted as part of the time of 96101 and 96118. Adapted from: *AMA CPT Assistant*, November, 2006

About 96103 and 96120... These Codes are reported for the computer-administrated psychological and neuropsychological testing, with subsequent interpretation and report of the specific tests by a qualified health care professional. ***This should be reserved for situations where the computerized testing is unassisted by a provider or technician other than the installation of programs/test and checking to be sure that the patient is able to complete the tests.*** If greater levels of interaction are required, though the test may be computerized administer, then the appropriate physician/psychologist (96101/96118) or technician code (96102/96119) should be used. Adapted from: *AMA CPT Assistant*, November, 2006

Code 96118 was revised in 2008 to clarify and differentiate appropriate reporting of services by the psychologist or physician from those testing services performed by the technician or computer administered tests (96119 and 96120). The revisions emphasize that the services reported with the time-based code (96118) are reported for clinician administered testing, interpretation of the results, report preparation, AND any additional necessary time for the **integration** of the test data acquired from the computer, technician testing or other data (*paper & pencil*) into the report. Modifier is not applicable if the professional provides the service. If the technician provides the service, it is advisable (pending MAC guidelines) to use the 59 modifier. The modifier should be applied to any of the testing codes though probably best to attach to technician and/or computer codes (CMS, September, 2006). Simultaneous Use of Professional and Technical Codes Allowed by Medicare MLN Matters: MM5204 Revised, Effective December 28, 2006.

Documentation:

CMS (Recovery Audit Program) and other payers have active and ongoing audit programs to recover fraudulent claims. Clients have expressed the following tips to help a practice be prepared for an audit.

Technical Component – Label whether Tech admin or Computer admin, Number of Tests.

Professional Component – Label Activities: Testing by Professional, Interpretation, Report, or Integration of findings which may include history, prior records, interview(s), and compilation of tests.

Testing Time – KEY ADVANTAGE: Concussion Vital Signs Time and Date stamps all assessments. For Paper and Pencil testing minimum documentation should be: Date(s) & Total Time Elapsed, Maximum: Date(s) Start and Stop Times; Testing Time Backup - Scheduling System (e.g., schedule book; agenda, etc.), Testing Sheet with Lists of Tests with Start/Stop Times, Keep Time Information as long as records are kept. *Medical Necessity can vary by Payer.

Denial of Coverage:

Most payers consider computerized neurocognitive assessment procedures medically necessary because the assessment procedure aids in the assessment of neurocognitive impairment due to medical or psychiatric conditions. Neurocognitive testing such as Concussion Vital Signs helps clinicians better understand the nature of their patient's illness, in making recommendations regarding coping with and compensating for their neurocognitive difficulties, and encourages treatment adherence.

If for some reason the carrier or plan denies coverage it is important to EDUCATE and INFORM the carrier or plan's personnel about the importance of covering the procedure.

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