

Psychological Testing

Policy Number: SC17P0057A3

Effective Date: May 1, 2018

Last Update: June 9, 2025

PAYMENT POLICY HISTORY

| DATE | SUMMARY OF CHANGE |
|--------------------|--|
| June 9, 2025 | Annual review complete. Minimal grammatical, stylization, and content clarifications made. |
| March 31, 2025 | Updated 'State Public Programs' to 'Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP).' |
| February 19, 2025 | Policy updated to reflect change to legislated payment adjustment outlined on Approved SPA 24-44. |
| May 31, 2024 | Annual review complete. Updates made to definition and source sections. Standardization & wording clarifications also applied. |
| May 25, 2023 | Annual payment policy review completed. Updates made to overview, enrollee eligibility, provider eligibility, and payment information sections. |
| September 19, 2022 | Information regarding code-specific procedure CPT® or HCPCS was removed. |
| April 6, 2021 | Payment policy language was updated to clarify that CPT codes 96131 must be used in conjunction with 96130. |
| May 4, 2020 | Annual payment policy review was completed. The policy was moved to an updated format and as a result information may have been reformatted. No technical changes were made. |
| May 1, 2019 | Deleted HCPCS codes 96101, 96102, and 96103. Added the –HN modifier and information regarding the correct use of the modifier. Updated payment and billing information. Removed the requirement that test names must be submitted on the claim. Updated the UCare logo and all hyperlinks in the policy. |
| May 1, 2018 | The Psychological Testing policy is implemented by UCare. |

APPLICABLE PRODUCTS

This policy applies to the products checked below:

| UCARE PRODUCT | PRODUCT TYPE | APPLIES TO |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------|
| UCare Connect +Medicare (When MHCP is the primary payer) | Dually Integrated | ✓ |
| UCare Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) (When MHCP is the primary payer) | Dually Integrated | ✓ |
| UCare Connect | Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) | ✓ |
| UCare MinnesotaCare | Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) | ✓ |
| UCare Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) | Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) | ✓ |
| UCare Prepaid Medical Assistance (PMAP) | Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) | ✓ |

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PAYMENT POLICY INSTRUCTIONS

A payment policy assists in determining provider reimbursement for specific covered services. To receive payment, the provider must be in a contractual relationship with UCare and provide services to a member enrolled in one of UCare's products. This payment policy is intended to provide a foundation for system configuration, work instructions, call scripts, and provider communications. A payment policy describes the rules for payment, which include applicable fee schedules, additional payment rules by regulatory bodies, and contractual terms. This policy is a general guideline and may be superseded by specific provider contract language.

PAYMENT POLICY OVERVIEW

Psychological tests and other psychometric instruments are used to determine the status of mental, intellectual, and emotional functioning. Tests must meet psychological standards for reliability and validity and be suitable for the diagnostic purposes for which they are used. Outlined below are UCare's billing and payment guidelines for psychological testing.

POLICY DEFINITIONS

| TERM | NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Clinical Trainee | A mental health practitioner who meets the qualifications specified in MN Statute 245I.04, subdivision 6. |
| Essential Community Provider (ECP) | <p>A health care provider that serves high-risk, special needs, and underserved individuals that demonstrates the ability to integrate appropriate supportive and stabilizing services with medical services. In order to be designated as an ECP, a provider must demonstrate that it meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 62Q.19 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4688. Those regulations require that ECPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide or coordinate supportive and stabilizing services, such as transportation, childcare, linguistic services, and culturally sensitive and competent services to its clients;• Serve all patients, regardless of their financial limitations; and• Charge patients for their services based on a sliding fee schedule, if the ECP is a non-profit organization. |

| TERM | NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION |
|-----------------------|--|
| Psychological Testing | Tests and other psychometric instruments used to determine the status of an individual's mental, intellectual, and emotional functioning as outlined in MN Statutes Sec. 256B.0671 . |

ENROLLEE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

THIS SECTION OF THE POLICY PROVIDES INFORMATION THAT IS SPECIFIC TO THE UCARE MEMBER, INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRITERIA THE MEMBER MUST MEET IN ORDER FOR THE SERVICE(S) IN THE POLICY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT.

Any UCare member actively enrolled in a UCare Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP) product is eligible to receive these services.

ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OR FACILITIES

OUTLINED BELOW IS THE SPECIFIC CRITERIA A PROVIDER MUST MEET IN ORDER FOR THE SERVICE(S) IN THIS POLICY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT.

The following providers may administer psychological testing:

- Licensed psychologists (LP) with competence in psychological testing
- Mental health practitioner working as a clinical psychology trainee under the treatment supervision of a licensed psychologist

An LP must supervise the administration, scoring, and interpretation of a member's psychological tests when a clinical psychology trainee, technician, psychometrist, or psychological assistant or a computer-assisted psychological testing program completes the tests.

EXCLUDED PROVIDER TYPES

OUTLINED BELOW IS INFORMATION REGARDING PROVIDERS WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO FURNISH THE SERVICE(S) LISTED IN THIS POLICY.

Not applicable.

MODIFIERS, CPT, HCPCS, AND REVENUE CODES**General Information**

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and Revenue codes listed in this policy are for reference purposes only. Including information in this policy does not imply that the service described by a code is a covered or non-covered health service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee of claim payment.

Modifiers

The modifiers listed below are not intended to be a comprehensive list of all modifiers. Instead, the modifiers that are listed are those that must be appended to the CPT® / HCPCS codes listed below. Based on the service(s) provided, and the circumstances surrounding those services it may, based on correct coding, be appropriate to append an additional modifier(s) to the CPT® / HCPCS code.

When a service requires multiple modifiers, the modifiers must be submitted in the order listed below. If it is necessary to add additional modifiers, they should be added after the modifiers listed below.

CPT and/or HCPCS Code(s)

| CPT AND/OR HCPCS CODE(S) | MODIFIER(S) | NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| 96130 | | Psychological testing evaluation services |
| 96131 | | Psychological testing, evaluation services, <i>each additional hour</i> |

CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

Revenue Codes

Not applicable.

PAYMENT INFORMATION**General Information**

The administration, scoring and interpretation of the psychological tests must be done under the clinical supervision of a licensed psychologist when performed by a technician, psychometrist or psychological assistant or as part of computer-assisted psychological program.

Covered Services

The following services are included when billing for psychological testing:

- A face-to-face interview
- Administration and scoring
- Interpretation of results
- A written report documenting test results. The report must be:
 - Signed by the psychologist conducting the face-to face interview
 - Placed in the client's medical record; and
 - Released to each person authorized by the client

Payment Adjustments

Payment Reductions

Based on MHCP guidelines when certain mental services are furnished by a master's prepared provider a twenty percent (20%) reduction is applied to the allowed amount. Master's prepared providers may include:

- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS-MH)
- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC)
- Licensed Psychologist (LP) master's Level
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
- Master's Level enrolled provider

Master's level reductions are not applied to mental health services when they are furnished:

- In a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)
- By a Mental Health Practitioner qualified to work as a clinical trainee

Payment Enhancements

In addition to the master's level provider reduction, UCare also applies a legislated adjustment to specific mental health services when furnished by the providers listed below.

July 2007 through December 2024, the legislated adjustment was 23.7%.
Effective January 2025, the legislated adjustment is 11.85%.

- Psychiatrists;
- Advance Practice Nurses;
 - Clinical Nurse Specialist
 - Nurse Practitioner
- Community Mental Health Centers;
- Mental health clinics and centers certified under Rule 29 and designated by the Minnesota Department of Mental Health as an essential community provider;

- Hospital outpatient psychiatric departments designated by the Minnesota Department of Mental Health as an essential community provider; and
- Children’s Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) providers for services identified as CTSS in the DHS mental health procedure CPT or HCPCS codes and rates chart.

Information on UCare fee schedule updates can be found in the [UCare Provider Manual](#).

Neuropsychological Testing

Refer to UCare’s Neuropsychological Services policy for information regarding neuropsychological testing.

BILLING REQUIREMENTS AND DIRECTIONS

Billing Guidelines

General Information

- Claims must be submitted using the 837-P format or its electronic equivalent
- Enter the rendering provider NPI on each service line
- Append the –HN modifier when services are furnished by a qualified clinical trainee.

Time Based Services

When billing for services that include time as part of their definition, follow HCPCS and CPT guidelines to determine the appropriate unit(s) of service to report. Based on current guidelines, providers must spend more than half the time of a time-based code performing the service to report the code. If the time spent results in more than one- and one-half times the defined value of the code, and no additional time increment code exists, round up to the next whole number. Outlined below are the billable units of service based on whether the description of the service includes the unit of measurement of 15 minutes or 60 minutes:

| MINUTES | BILLABLE UNITS |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fifteen (15) Minute Increments | |
| 0 – 7 minutes | 0 (no billable unit of service) |
| 8 – 15 minutes | 1 (unit of billable service) |
| Sixty (60) Minute Increments | |
| 0 – 30 minutes | 0 (no billable unit of service) |
| 31 – 60 minutes | 1 (unit of billable service) |

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION, NOTIFICATION, AND THRESHOLD INFORMATION**Prior Authorization, Notification, and Threshold Requirements**

UCare does update authorization, notification, and threshold requirements from time-to-time. The most current prior authorization requirements can be found [here](#).

RELATED PAYMENT POLICY INFORMATION

OUTLINED BELOW ARE OTHER POLICIES THAT MAY RELATE TO THIS POLICY AND/OR MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THIS POLICY.

| POLICY NUMBER | POLICY TITLE |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Sc14P0011A2 | Neuropsychological Services |
| | |

SOURCE DOCUMENTS AND REGULATORY REFERENCES

LISTED BELOW ARE LINKS TO CMS, MHCP, AND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REFERENCES USED TO CREATE THIS POLICY.

[MHCP Provider Manual, Mental Health Services, Psychological Testing](#)

[Minnesota Statutes 256B.0671, subdivision 10](#)

DISCLAIMER

“Payment Policies assist in administering payment for UCare benefits under UCare’s health benefit Plans. Payment Policies are intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UCare’s administration of health benefits and are not intended to address all issues related to payment for health care services provided to UCare members. When submitting claims, all providers must first identify member eligibility, federal and state legislation, or regulatory guidance regarding claims

submission, UCare provider participation agreement contract terms, and the member-specific Evidence of Coverage (EOC) or other benefit document. In the event of a conflict, these sources supersede the Payment Policies. Payment Policies are provided for informational purposes and do not constitute coding or compliance advice. Providers are responsible for submission of accurate and compliant claims. In addition to Payment Policies, UCare also uses tools developed by third parties, such as the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®*), InterQual guidelines, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), or other coding guidelines, to assist in administering health benefits. References to CPT® or other sources in UCare Payment Policies are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to payment. Other UCare Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines may also apply. UCare reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary and to administer payments in a manner other than as described by UCare Payment Policies when necessitated by operational considerations.”