

## **Mental Health Provider Minimum Qualifications**

### **Psychological Testing Services Program**

#### **Open Enrollment**

The County of Sacramento (County) Department of Health Services (DHS), Behavioral Health Services (BHS), has developed minimum qualifications (MQs) for all individuals and/or organizations that are seeking to contract with DHS to provide adjunctive Medi-Cal billable psychological testing services for Sacramento County Mental Health Plan (MHP) clients who are currently open to a BHS outpatient program. DHS will contract with qualified individuals and/or organizations, which will be expected to provide culturally competent psychological testing services, provided in collaboration with those individuals and agencies involved with the client.

#### **Important Information:**

- Beginning September 10, 2024, individuals and/or organizations seeking to contract with BHS to provide psychological testing services must meet the MQs below.
- Contracts will be developed at any time in a fiscal year for those applicants that meet all the MQs to provide psychological testing services. Contracts expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> each year and may be renewed if the applicant continues to meet all MQs to provide Psychological Testing services.
- BHS will collaborate with individuals and/or community-based organizations to provide psychological testing services to youth under 21 years old. While the assessment may be utilized as a tool for other purposes, such as Regional Center admission, the only purpose of the assessment is to guide mental health treatment, determine mental health differential diagnoses, and provide consultation services for primary BHS mental health providers and families involved in the client's mental health treatment.
- Services include, but are not limited to:
  1. Provision of psychological testing services, which include assessment and testing related supplemental services. Types of tests shall be in accordance with the presenting mental health symptoms and mental health concerns, and in limited circumstances, may include specialty assessments (e.g. eating disorder). Services shall include family or significant support persons as applicable.
  2. Assessment: billed and claimed to Medi-Cal under psychological test administration and psychological testing evaluation. All services shall be entered

in the County Electronic Health Record (EHR) for claiming purposes and record keeping. The County will manage the initial claiming. Denials of Medi-Cal claims shall be managed by the provider according to County policies and procedures to avoid non-payment to the provider.

- The provider(s) will be reimbursed based on the following rates:

Direct Service Staff Classification	Medi-Cal Billable Rates (per hour)
Psychologist/Pre-Licensed Psychologist	\$474.06
Mental Health Rehab Specialist	\$268.49
Peer Recovery Specialist	\$313.86
Other Qualified Providers – other Designated Mental Health staff that bill Medi-Cal	\$285.09

The Medi-Cal service codes below are allowable psychological testing services:

Code Type	SmartCare Simple Procedure	Procedure Code Description
Assessment Codes	Psychological Testing	Psychological testing evaluation procedure should be used when a psychologist or other qualified healthcare professional, reviews data gathered during the administration of psychological testing and prepares a report that includes integration of patient data, interpretation of standardized test results and clinical data, clinical decision making, and interactive feedback to the patient, family member(s) or caregiver(s), when performed, first hour.
Assessment Codes	Psychological Testing Evaluation, Each Addl. Hour	This code will be added automatically for services that last past the first hour.
Assessment Codes	Neuropsychological Testing Evaluation	Neuropsychological testing evaluation procedure should be used when a psychologist or other qualified healthcare professional, reviews data gathered during the administration of neuropsychological testing and prepares a report that includes integration of patient data, interpretation of standardized test results and clinical data, clinical decision making, and interactive feedback to the patient, family member(s) or caregiver(s), when performed, first hour.
Assessment Codes	Neuropsychological Testing Evaluation, Each Addl. Hour	This code will be added automatically for services that last past the first hour.
Assessment Codes	Psychological or Neuropsychological Test Administration	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration will be used when a psychologist or other qualified health professional, administers and scores two or more tests, any method, first 30 minutes.
Assessment Codes	Psychological or Neuropsychological Test Administration, Each Addl. 30 Min.	This code will be added automatically for services that last past the first hour.

Only the above codes/activities are allowable to be invoiced.

- Completion of services within 120 days of referral. Any exceptions should be made in coordination with the County and the clinical justification will be documented in the Sacramento County EHR.
- Forwarding of written testing results and report to the referring clinician within 5 business days of the completion of the testing.

6. Conducting a post evaluation meeting (face to face, office, or telehealth) with the referring clinician, caregiver, and client, if client is old enough and willing to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to explain, educate, and advise on client’s care and treatment.
7. Coordination of care and collaboration with primary mental health provider, and as clinically indicated, with all parties involved with the client and family, in accordance with all applicable confidentiality laws, including but not limited to parents/caregivers, schools, doctors, medical staff, hospitals, social services, Child Welfare, Regional Center, and Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Services.
8. Providing one psychological consultation with the primary mental health team, in lieu of a full psychological evaluation, as clinically indicated to help identify effective treatment modalities for the client. A consultation may also assist the primary mental health team in advocating for a more appropriate/specialized assessment from the school, Managed Care Plan, rehabilitation center, or Regional Center. Psychological consultation will be billed under assessment, which includes reviewing data, gathering clinical information, and preparing a report that integrates data, clinical decision making and interactive feedback to the client, family member or caregiver.
9. Adhere to admission and authorization guidelines defined in County policies and procedures.

- Available Funding

1. AVAILABLE ANNUAL FUNDING: \$123,219.

<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Total Available Funds for Fiscal Year 2024/2025</b>
Federal Financial Participation and Realignment Funds	\$123,219

2. The County reserves the right to make adjustments to the contract maximum.
3. Funds will solely support psychological testing, psychological consultation, and post evaluation meetings.

Upon meeting all the MQs below, an individual or organization may request a mental health contract with Sacramento County BHS to provide and be reimbursed for psychological testing services. All contracts begin upon execution of a contract and continue until June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current fiscal year.

Individuals or organizations requesting a mental health contract with Sacramento County BHS can respond to this Psychological Testing Open Enrollment process by contacting: [DHS-BHS-OE-PT@saccounty.gov](mailto:DHS-BHS-OE-PT@saccounty.gov) for further questions and submission of MQ documentation.

Sacramento County BHS Psychological Testing MQs:

1. Individual/Organization must have at least one Licensed Psychologist, as defined in County behavioral health policy, to provide psychological testing services or to provide clinical supervision of Psychologist Clinical Trainee, Master's Degree Student, Doctor of Philosophy, and/or Psychologist (waivered) who provide the testing.
2. Individual/Organization must complete the Medi-Cal certification process and be able to start providing services within 3 months of contract execution with DHS or risk contract termination. The site must be in Sacramento County and meet county Good Neighbor policy.
3. Individual/Organization must have five or more years of experience providing psychological testing services to youth under 21 years old and have the capability to provide psychological testing services to youth in accordance with the Scope of Work outlined in this document.
4. Individual/Organization must accept all referrals from the County. Individual/Organization must consult with the County if they are not able to accept any referral(s).
5. Individual/Organization must submit, meet, and abide by any applicable State, Federal, and County laws, statutes, regulations, and certifications necessary to the operations of all aspects of Psychological Testing and Medi-Cal certification, claiming, denial processing, and documentation.
6. Individual/Organization must comply with data collection, reporting, and audits, with the capability to implement program changes based on findings.
7. Individual/Organization must be in compliance with any corrective action plans with Sacramento County as confirmed by the County.
8. Individual/Organization must provide a Certificate of Insurance, including current coverage for Cyber Liability and Sexual Molestation & Abuse.
9. Individual/Organization must comply with all requirements of Sacramento County.