

Service: Diagnostic Assessment

Service Definition

Psychiatric diagnostic interview examination includes a history; mental status exam; evaluation and assessment of physiological phenomena (including co-morbidity between behavioral and physical health care issues); psychiatric diagnostic evaluation (including assessing for co-occurring disorders and the development of a differential diagnosis); screening and/or assessment of any withdrawal symptoms for youth with substance related diagnoses; assessment of the appropriateness of initiating or continuing services; and a disposition. These are completed by face-to-face evaluation of the youth (which may include the use of telemedicine) and may include communication with family and other sources and the ordering and medical interpretation of laboratory or other medical diagnostic studies.

Admission Criteria

1. Youth has a known or suspected mental illness or a substance-related disorder and has recently entered the service system; or
2. Youth is in need of annual assessment and re-authorization of service array; or
3. Youth has need of an assessment due to a change in clinical/functional status.

Continuing Stay Criteria

Youth's situation/functioning has changed in such a way that previous assessments are outdated.

Discharge Criteria

1. An adequate continuing care plan has been established; and one or more of the following:
2. Individual has withdrawn or been discharged from service; or
3. Individual no longer demonstrates need for continued diagnostic assessment.

Required Components

1. When providing diagnostic services to individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing, diagnosticians shall demonstrate training, supervision, and/or consultation with a qualified professional as approved by DBHDD Deaf Services.

Staffing Requirements

The only 3 practitioners who can provide Diagnostic Assessment are an LCSW, LMFT, or LPC.

Service Accessibility

This service may be provided via telemedicine to any individual/family who consents to this modality. This consent should be documented in the individual's record. The use of telemedicine should not be driven by the practitioner's/agency's convenience or preference.

Billing and Reporting Requirements

1. 90791 is used when an initial evaluation is provided by a non-physician.

2. 90792 is used when an initial evaluation is provided by a physician, PA, or APRN. This 90792 intervention content would include all general behavioral health assessment as well as Medical assessment/Physical exam beyond mental status as appropriate.
3. If a Medicaid claim for this service denies for a Procedure-to-Procedure edit, a modifier (59) can be added to the claim and resubmitted to the MMIS for payment.

Additional Medicaid Requirements

The daily maximum for Diagnostic Assessment (Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview) for a youth is 2 units. Two units should be utilized only if it is necessary in a complex diagnostic case for the diagnostician to call in a physician for an assessment to corroborate or verify the correct diagnosis.