Clinical Guidelines and Service Definitions

Psychological Evaluation

Funding Stream
Medicaid, Private Insurance, or other Community Resources must be accessed before a request is made for use of Core Service dollars.

Definition of Service
- **Service goals are centered on promoting child and family safety and family protective capacity.**
- A psychological evaluation is a process wherein a psychologist attempts to answer questions about psychological variables (emotional state, personality, pathology, behavior and cognitive/intellectual ability) through the use of interview, formal testing, collateral information and clinical judgment. The evaluator provides a comprehensive conceptualization (including mental health diagnosis) of the individual that answers the referral question and provides greater insight and clarity into his/her psychological functioning, as well as, to provide recommendations that will likely be most effective and efficient in meeting the parent’s and/or child’s needs. The evaluation can be useful in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of an individual and how these can impact the individual’s capacity to parent a child.
- **The report should contain the following information:** Identifying Information, referral source, reason for referral, procedures used, collateral contacts, relevant history, behavioral observations and mental status exam, test results, summary with five-axis diagnosis, and recommendations.
- The collection and review of collateral information **must** be obtained prior to completing the report and documentation of the collateral information must be included in the final written report. If unable to obtain collateral data within one week of the referral, the provider must outreach to caseworker/supervisor/Health Network care coordinator to facilitate collection of collateral information. Reports written without obtaining collateral information will not be reimbursed without prior approval from AspenPointe Health Network.

**Estimated Length of Treatment:**
Three to six hours over one to three sessions

**Frequency of Services:**
One time per year
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Provider Credentials:
Providers are:
  • Licensed Psychologists with experience in such areas as forensic practice, child and
    family development, child and family psychopathology, and child abuse
  • Familiar with applicable legal/regulatory standards and procedures, including State and
    Federal laws governing child protection issues
  • Providers may also be doctoral candidates in Psychology who have completed an
    internship and are currently under the supervision of a Licensed Psychologist (who will
    co-sign each report).

Provider Responsibilities:
Report required within 10 business days of completed evaluation – both the Caseworker and
Care Coordinator are to receive copies of the report.

Caseworker Responsibilities:
Caseworker is responsible for providing specific referral question(s) to the Care Coordinator on
the referral form; this will enable the provider to most effectively address the relevant issues.

Staffing:
Not applicable.