

Cognitive Assessment 2019 Update

The following codes are used to report the services provided during testing of the central nervous system functions. The central nervous system assessments include, but are not limited to memory, language, visual motor responses, and abstract reasoning/problem solving abilities.

These services follow standard CPT time definitions (*ie, a minimum of 16 minutes for 30 minutes codes and 31 minutes for 1-hour codes must be provided to report any of these time-based codes*). The time reported in 96116, 96121, 96130, 96131, 96132, 96433, 96125 is the face-to-face time with the patient and the time spent integrating and interpreting data.

MUE – Medically Unlikely Edits = CMS limits the number of units that may be billed for certain codes.

An MUE for a HCPCS/CPT code is the maximum units of service that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single beneficiary on a single date of service.

- **Cognitive Impairment Services (Evaluation and Management Service)**

Code	Description	CMS MUE Guideline
99483	<p>Assessment of and care planning for a patient with cognitive impairment, requiring an independent historian, in the office or other outpatient, home or domiciliary or rest home, WITH ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED ELEMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognition-focused evaluation including a pertinent history and examination; Medical decision making of moderate or high complexity; • Functional assessment (eg, basic and instrumental activities of daily living), including decision-making capacity; Use of standardized instruments for staging of dementia (eg, functional assessment staging test [FAST], clinical dementia rating [CDR]); Medication reconciliation and review for high-risk medications; • Evaluation for neuropsychiatric and behavioral symptoms, including depression, including use of standardized screening instrument(s); Evaluation of safety (eg, home), including motor vehicle operation; Identification of caregiver(s), caregiver knowledge, caregiver needs, social supports, and the willingness of caregiver to take on caregiving tasks; • Development, updating or revision, or review of an Advance Care Plan; Creation of a written care plan, including initial plans to address any neuropsychiatric symptoms, neuro-cognitive symptoms, functional limitations, and referral to community resources as needed (eg, rehabilitation services, adult day programs, support groups) shared with the patient and/or caregiver with initial education and support. <p><i>Typically, 50 minutes are spent face-to-face with the patient and/or family or caregiver.</i></p>	<p>MUE = up to 1 unit Once every 180 days</p>

Code 99483 provides reimbursement to physicians and other eligible billing practitioners for a comprehensive clinical visit that results in a written care plan. Code 99483 requires an independent historian; a multidimensional assessment that includes cognition, function, and safety; evaluation of neuropsychiatric and behavioral symptoms; review and reconciliation of medications; and assessment of the needs of the patient’s caregiver. (See the CPT 2018 manual for full details.) These components are central to informing, designing and delivering a care plan suitable for patients with cognitive impairment (Anonymous. Fed Register 2016).

****No currently available template for cognitive assessment in EPIC. Template creation TBD.**

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Color Code	New Code Effective January 1, 2019
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➤ **96105-96146 Central Nervous System Assessments/Tests**

• **Assessment of Aphasia and Cognitive Performance Testing**

Code	Description	CMS MUE Guideline
96105	Assessment of aphasia (includes assessment of expressive and receptive speech and language function, language comprehension, speech production ability, reading, spelling, writing, eg, Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Exam) with interpretation and report, per hour	MUE = up to 3 units per day (3 hours)
96125	Standardized cognitive performance testing (eg, Ross Information Processing Assessment) per hour of a qualified health care professional's time, both face-to-face with the patient and time interpreting test results and preparing the report.	MUE = up to 2 units per day (2 hours)

• **Developmental/Behavioral Screening and Testing**

Code	Description	CMS MUE Guideline
96110	Developmental screening (eg, developmental milestone survey, speech and language delay screen), with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument	MUE = up to 3 units per day
96112	Developmental test administration (including assessment of fine and/or gross motor, language, cognitive level, social, memory and/or executive functions by standardized developmental instruments when performed), by physician or other qualified health care professional, with interpretation and report: first hour	MUE not yet available
+96113	each additional 30 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	MUE not yet available
96127	Brief emotional/behavioral assessment (eg, depression inventory, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder [ADHD] scale), with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument	MUE = up to 2 units per day

• **Neurobehavioral Status exam**

Code	Description	CMS MUE Guideline
96116 Updated 2019	Neurobehavioral status exam (clinical assessment of thinking reasoning and judgment, [eg, acquired knowledge, attention, language, memory, planning and problem solving, and visual spatial abilities]), (<i>per hour of the psychologist's or physician's time</i>) by physician or other qualified health care professional , both face-to-face time with the patient and the time interpreting test results and preparing the report; first hour	MUE = up to 1 unit per day
+96121	each additional hour (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	MUE not yet available

- **Testing Evaluation Services**

Code	Description	CMS MUE Guideline
96130	Psychological testing evaluation services by physician or other qualified health care professional, including integration of patient data, interpretation of standardized test results and clinical data, clinical decision-making treatment planning and report, and interactive feedback to the patient, family member(s) or caregiver(s), when performed: first hour	MUE not yet available
+96131	each additional hour (list separately in addition to coed for primary procedure)	MUE not yet available
96132	Neuropsychological testing evaluation services by physician or other qualified health care professional, including integration of patient data, interpretation of standardized test results and clinical data, clinical decision making, treatment planning and report, and interactive feedback to the patient, family member(s) or caregiver(s), when performed: first hour	MUE not yet available
+96133	each additional hour (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	MUE not yet available

- **Test Administration and Scoring**

Code	Description	CMS MUE Guideline
96136	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by physician or other qualified health care professional, two or more tests, any method: first 30 minutes	MUE not yet available
+96137	each additional 30 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	MUE not yet available
96138	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by technician, two or more tests, any method: first 30 minutes	MUE not yet available
+96139	each additional 30 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	MUE not yet available

➤ **96150-96155 Biopsychosocial Assessment/Intervention**

• **Health and Behavior Assessment**

Code	Description	CMS MUE Guideline
96150	Health and behavior assessment (eg, health-focused clinical interview, behavioral observations, psychophysiological monitoring, health-oriented questionnaires), each 15 minutes face-to-face with the patient; initial assessment	MUE = up to 8 units per day (2 hours)
96151	Health and behavior assessment (eg, health-focused clinical interview, behavioral observations, psychophysiological monitoring, health-oriented questionnaires), each 15 minutes face-to-face with the patient; re-assessment	MUE = up to 6 units per day (0.5 hours)
96152	Health and behavior intervention, each 15 minutes, face-to-face; individual	MUE = up to 6 units per day (1.5 hours)
96153	Health and behavior intervention, each 15 minutes, face-to-face; group (2 or more patients)	MUE = up to 8 units per day (2 hours)
96154	Health and behavior intervention, each 15 minutes, face-to-face; family (with the patient present)	MUE = up to 8 units per day (2 hours)
96155	Health and behavior intervention, each 15 minutes, face-to-face; family (without the patient present)	MUE = 0 units per day (physician MUE value only)
96160	Administration of patient-focused health risk assessment instrument (eg, health hazard appraisal) with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument	MUE = up to 3 units per day
96161	Administration of caregiver-focused health risk assessment instrument (eg, depression inventory) for the benefit of the patient, with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument	MUE = up to 1 unit per day

➤ **INCLUDES:**

- Services for patients that have primary physical illnesses/diagnoses/symptoms who may benefit from assessments/interventions that focus on the biopsychosocial factors related to the patient's health status
- Services used to identify the following factors which are important to the prevention/treatment/management of physical health problems:
 - Behavioral
 - Cognitive
 - Emotional
 - Psychological
 - Social

➤ **EXCLUDES:**

- Adaptive behavior services ([0364T-0367T](#), [0373T-0374T](#))
- E&M services on the same date
- Preventive medicine counseling services ([99401-99412](#))
- Psychotherapy services ([90785-90899](#))

Sources:

- <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/r55bp.pdf>
- <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1377CP.pdf>
- https://downloads.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/lcd_attachments/30514_1/I30514_031610_cbg.pdf
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- <https://www.alz.org/careplanning/downloads/cms-consensus.pdf>