Provider Notice

To:	**PerformCare Network Providers (MH OP Clinic, Mobile MH OP, Psychiatrist, Psychologist provider types/specialties)**
From:	**Scott Daubert, PhD, VP Operations**
Date:	**February 1, 2016 (corrected notice March 14, 2016)**
Subject:	**MH 16 100 New CPT Code 96127 Brief Emotional-Behavioral Assessment**

A new CPT code, 96127, is now included in the HealthChoices program for designated mental health outpatient provider types / specialties. Formally, the code description by the American Medical Association (AMA) and adopted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is the following:

96127 - Brief emotional/behavioral assessment (eg, depression inventory, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder [ADHD] scale), with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument

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As of 2/1/16 dates of service, the 96127 code is now available for billing to PerformCare as reflected on the chart at the end of this notice. As this code is brand new and not previously in use, questions have arisen regarding the appropriate code for some of the common instruments administered and the differentiation from psychological testing codes. The 96127 code should be used to report a brief assessment for ADHD, depression, suicidal risk, anxiety, substance abuse, eating disorders, etc. No professional involvement is required and administration, scoring and documentation can be done by administrative staff. This code was created in response to the Affordable Care Act's federal mandate to include mental health services as part of the essential benefits that must be included in all insurance plans. The mandate covers both child and adult services such as depression screening, alcohol and drug screening, and brief behavioral assessments in children and adolescents.

The following is a list of common screening instruments that can be billed under the 96127 code without a prior authorization to PerformCare, but this is not an exhaustive listing. PerformCare has activated a claims edit which allows an upper limit of four (4) instruments per day. Contact to PerformCare and prior authorization review would be required for use of more than 4 screening instruments per date of service. The code can be billed on the same date of service as other common services such as psychiatry or therapy appointments.

Instrument Examples (child / adolescent)	Abbreviation
Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional	ASQ:SE
Australian Scale for Asperger's Syndrome	ASAS
Beck Youth Inventories – 2nd Ed.	BYI-II
Behavior Assessment Scale for Children – 2nd Ed.	BASC-2
Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function	BRIEF
Brigance Screens	No Abbreviation
Brief Infant and Toddler Social Emotional Assessment	BITSEA
Child Autism Rating Scale (Parent / Caregiver)	CARS
Connor's Rating Scale	No Abbreviation
Kutcher Adolescent Depression Scale	No Abbreviation
Pediatric Symptom Checklist	PSC
Screen for Child Anxiety Related Disorders	SCARED
Social Communications Questionnaire	SCQ
Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire	SDQ
Substance Abuse and Alcohol Abuse Screening	CRAFFT
Vanderbilt Rating Scales	No Abbreviation
Instrument Examples (adult)	**Abbreviation**
Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test	AUDIT
Beck Depression Inventory	BDI
Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale	C-SSRS
Drug Abuse Screening Test	DAST-10
Generalized Anxiety Disorder	GAD-7
Geriatric Depression Scale	GDS
Life Event Checklist	LEC
Patient Health Questionnaire	PHQ-9, PHQ-2

Differentiation of 96127 Screening Instruments from Psychological Testing

It is common for some of the above named assessment instruments to be included in a larger psychological test battery under the 96101-02 CPT codes. For a complete description of the Psychological Testing prior authorization process, please see PerformCare Policy & Procedure CM-012 *Authorization of Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing* and its attachments located on our website at http://pa.performcare.org/providers/resources-information/policies.aspx.

It remains appropriate to include such instruments under the request for psychological testing (96101-96102) if they are being used by the professional as part of a larger evaluation and test battery. Use of the 96127 CPT code is appropriate when a single or small number of screening instruments is being used, for example, as a standard part of a clinical intake. Scoring and its documentation should be in the Member record, but professional involvement is not necessarily required.

Pvr Type	Specialty	Provider Description	CPT Code	Authorization Service Description	Units	Place of Service	Frequency	Effective Date	Age Restrictions	Prior Auth	Rate
08	074	Mobile MH OP	96127	MH--OP--Brief Screening Instrument	Occurrence	15	4/ day 1x Everyday	2/1/16	none	No	$5.50 per instrument*
08	110	MH OP Clinics	96127	MH--OP--Brief Screening Instrument	Occurrence	03, 12, 49	4/ day 1x Everyday	2/1/16	none	No	$5.50 per instrument
31	339	Psychiatrists	96127	MH--OP--Brief Screening Instrument	Occurrence	11, 12	4/ day 1x Everyday	2/1/16	none	No	$5.50 per instrument
19	190	Psychologists	96127	MH--OP--Brief Screening Instrument	Occurrence	03**, 11	4/ day 1x Everyday	2/1/16	none	No	$5.50 per instrument

*The current Pa. Medicaid Fee-for-Service rate is $4.00, and the current Medicare rate is $5.01. Initial PerformCare rate set at 110% Medicare.

** 3/14/16 correction added 03 POS to 19/190 Prov Type / Specialty

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