

CPT Code 96127 – Brief Behavioral Assessment

CPT Code 96127 may be used to report behavioral assessments in children and adolescents. CPT code description (AMA published) definition: Brief emotional/behavioral assessment with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument.

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 offered in individual and small group markets. The mandate covers services such as depression screening for adults and adolescents, alcohol misuse in adults, alcohol and drug use in adolescents, and behavioral assessments in children and adolescents.

Billing Tips for 96127:

- ✓ *Used to report administration of standardized emotional and/or behavioral instruments.*
- ✓ *Often reported when performed in the context of preventive medicine services but may also be reported when screening is performed with other E/M services such as acute illness or follow-up office visits.*
- ✓ *Clinical staff (e.g. registered nurse) can administer and score the completed instrument while the mid-level provider or physician incorporates the interpretation component into the accompanying E/M service.*
- ✓ *Clinicians may bill under this code if they believe it to be appropriate for the service they have rendered and should include documentation within their visit that indicates the service that was provided.*

The following tools offered by Possibilities for Change appear to meet the CPT code 96127 description*:

- ✓ RAAPS – Standard
- ✓ RAAPS – Older Child
- ✓ RAAPS – College Age
- ✓ RAAPS – Public Health
- ✓ ACT – Sexual Health Module

***There are no specific requirements for this code. Please check with your individual public and private insurers to determine if they have imposed any reimbursement criteria.**

Valuation

Average estimated payment is \$5.00 per service (typical range of reimbursement is \$4-\$7)