Neuropsychological billing and managed care: Practice and ethical issues

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February 13, 2006
What is your practice setting?

- Private Practice
- Institution-based practice
  - Hospital or clinic
  - Schools
  - Other
Who is responsible for:

• Setting of fees
• Billing and collections
Who are your practice populations?

- Adults
- Adolescents
- Children
- Typical diagnostic categories
What is the content of your practice:

- Clinical work
  - Evaluations
  - Psychotherapy
  - Consultation
  - Training and Supervision
What is the content of your practice (continued):

- Forensic work
  - IME work
  - Legal work
  - Medical record review and consultation
What is the content of your practice (continued):

- Consultation – peers, businesses, other
- Supervision – peers or student training
- Teaching – classroom, workshops
- Research
General ethical principles:

- Inform patients regarding fees
- Inform patients regarding billing and payment expectations
- Complete necessary information
- Do so in a timely way
- Do not withhold clinically necessary information secondary to non-payment.
Initial paperwork for patients:

- Informed consent – information about your practice and procedures
- Signed agreements for evaluation
- Signed agreement for therapy
The patients’ or families’ obligations:

- To know or find out what their insurance does and doesn’t cover
- To be responsible for uncovered portions of the bill
- To pay those portions in a timely manner, or according to a pre-agreed plan
Related billing issues:

• Confidentiality, privacy, and informed consent for treatment
  • Dealing with insurance companies
    • Who gets copies of what notes, and why?
    • How do you satisfy billing requirements without betraying confidentiality?
Confidentiality, privacy, and informed consent for treatment:

- Other requests for patients’ reports or notes:
  - Teachers for educational planning
  - Disabled student services for support and accommodation
  - Parents of young brain injured adults
  - Non-psychologist psychotherapists, psychiatrists, health care providers
Specific Neuropsychology Billing issues:

- Use of 96118 - NPE record review, interview, test interpretation, report prep, review of result
- Use of 96116 - Screening exams and related diagnostic interviews
- Use of 96119 - Psychometrists’ time in scoring, writing behavioral observations
Health and Behavioral Codes:

- Evaluation
- Treatment
  - Individual, Group