



## Questions and Answers About Using the Computer Billing Code

### **Q: When is the computer billing code used?**

**A:** The computer code is used only when the patient is taking a computer-based test unassisted. Scoring by computer is not a billable activity.

### **Q: Can I bill the computer code if my patient takes a paper-and-pencil test, and I use a computer to score it?**

**A:** No. The codes are for identifying how test administration is done, not scoring. If the paper-and-pencil test is self-administered (i.e., only the patient is involved in the testing), the psychologist may not bill for either the time the patient spends on the test or the computerized scoring of the test. In this situation, the psychologist may only bill for the time spent on interpretation and reporting.

### **Q: If a patient takes three computerized tests and no one is with him or her, does the psychologist bill the computer code three times?**

**A:** No. The computer code should be billed only once.

### **Q: If I only use a computer for scoring, can I bill the computer code in order to recoup the cost of the licensing fees?**

**A:** No. The computer code is used only for testing. The costs related to licensing fees are captured in the code for testing by a psychologist as a practice expense. Additional information about practice expenses is contained in the coverage of the Medicare Fee Schedule in the 2006 Testing Codes Toolkit.

### **Q: Suppose a full battery of testing includes a single computer-administered test, in addition to tests administered by either the psychologist or a technician. Can the psychologist bill the computer code as well as the psychologist or technician codes?**

**A:** Yes. If a testing battery involves a computerized test, and the patient is unassisted during that test, then the computer code (96103 or 96120) may be billed in addition to the technician and psychologist codes. The time necessary to complete the individual test report would not be included in calculating the time that is captured in the psychologist code.

*For help with questions about or billing problems related to the revised codes, call the APA Practice Directorate's Government Relations Department at (202) 336-5889 or email [pracgovt@apa.org](mailto:pracgovt@apa.org).*

January 2006