



Connecticut Medical Assistance Program
Policy Transmittal 2022-45

Provider Bulletin 2022-67
September 2022

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Effective Date: October 1, 2022
Contact: See Below

TO: Behavioral Health Providers enrolled in independent practice and group practice, Psychologists, Licensed Marital and Family Therapists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors

RE: Guidance for Services Rendered by an Associate Licensed Behavioral Health Clinician Working in Private Practice Under the Supervision of an Applicable Qualified Independent Licensed Clinician

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is issuing new guidance for services in private practice rendered by an associate licensed behavioral health clinician working within such clinician's scope of practice under the supervision of an applicable qualified independent licensed health clinician. Effective for dates of service **October 1, 2022** and forward, pursuant to section 25 of Public Act 22-81, state law in section 17b-28e of the Connecticut General Statutes is amended to add a new subsection (d) as follows:

(1) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Social Services shall provide Medicaid payments to an enrolled independent licensed behavioral health clinician in private practice for covered services performed by an associate licensed behavioral health clinician working within such associate clinician's scope of practice under the supervision of such independent clinician, provided such independent clinician is (A) authorized under state law to supervise such associate clinician, and (B) complies with any supervision and documentation requirements required by law. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to alter any requirement concerning such services, including, but not limited to, scope of practice, supervision and documentation requirements.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "independent licensed behavioral health clinician" means a psychologist licensed

under chapter 383 of the general statutes, marital and family therapist licensed under chapter 383a of the general statutes, clinical social worker licensed under chapter 383b of the general statutes or professional counselor licensed under chapter 383c of the general statutes, (B) "associate licensed behavioral health clinician" means a marital and family therapy associate licensed under chapter 383a of the general statutes, master social worker licensed under chapter 383b of the general statutes or professional counselor associate licensed under chapter 383c of the general statutes, and (C) "private practice" means a practice setting that does not require a facility or institutional license and includes both solo and group practices of independent licensed behavioral health clinicians.

Behavioral Health Associate Licensed Clinician's Supervision Requirements.

An appropriate qualified independent licensed clinician (see below) shall provide direct supervision to each associate licensed individuals not less than weekly. The supervising independent licensed clinician shall accept primary responsibility for services performed by each associate licensed individuals and shall supervise all staff in accordance with applicable scope of practice requirements.

"Under the direct supervision" means that a health professional or a licensed AHP:

(A) Provides weekly supervision of the work performed by an associate licensed practitioner, in accordance with state regulations and policies.

(B) Accepts primary responsibility for the health services performed by the associate licensed practitioner.

For services performed by an associate licensed practitioner, assessments, treatment plans, discharge notes and progress notes shall be co-signed by the supervisor at least weekly for each client in care and shall contain the name, credentials, and the date of such signature. Evidence of clinical supervision for each client in care shall be documented and contain the name, credentials, and the date of such signature. The supervisor's signature means that the supervisor attests to having reviewed the documentation.

Qualified Supervising Practitioners Based on Current State Law

Based on current state law, each of the above-defined categories of associate licensed practitioners must be supervised by the applicable independent licensed practitioner. The practitioner is responsible for understanding and following state law and other requirements in effect at the time the services are provided, which is subject to change:

- *Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs)* – LMSWs may be supervised by physicians, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), licensed psychologists, licensed marital and family therapists (LMFTs), licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs), and licensed professional counselors (LPCs) – Conn Gen. Stat. § 20-195m.
- *Licensed Marital and Family Therapy Associates (LMFT-As)* – LMFT-As must be supervised by an LMFT – Conn. Gen. Stat. 20-195a.

- *Licensed Professional Counselor Associates (LPC-As)* – LPCAs may be supervised by an LPC, psychiatrist (only board-certified psychiatrists, not other physicians), psychiatric APRN (only an APRN certified as a psychiatric and mental health clinical nurse specialist or nurse practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center), licensed psychologist, LMFT, or LCSW – Conn. Gen. Stat. 20-195aa.

Reimbursement for Services Rendered by an Associate Licensed Clinician

Services billed by the independent licensed practitioner or group practice and rendered by an associate licensed clinician working under the supervision of an applicable independent licensed clinician will be reimbursed at the same rate as if the service was rendered by the independent licensed supervising clinician. Rates are posted on the Behavioral Health Clinician fee schedule. When the claim is billed, the supervising provider must be entered as the billing provider if the services was rendered in an individual practice or as the performing provider if rendered in a group practice.

Prior Authorization

There is no change to the current prior authorization (PA) requirements. Any behavioral health service that requires PA/registration must be obtained from the Department's behavioral health Administrative Services Organization (ASO) – currently, Beacon Health Options, prior to rendering the service. To receive PA or to obtain further information regarding behavioral health services, please contact CT BHP (Beacon Health Options) at 1-877-552-8247 or visit the CTBHP Web site at www.ctbhp.com.

Accessing the Fee Schedule

The updated fee schedules can be accessed and downloaded by accessing the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) Web site: www.ctdssmap.com. From this Web page, go to "Provider", then to "Provider Fee Schedule Download". Click on the "I accept" button and proceed to click on the appropriate fee schedule, then select "Open file".

Posting Instructions:

Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Web site at www.ctdssmap.com.

Distribution:

This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program by Gainwell Technologies.

Responsible Unit:

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