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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Medical Policy

These documents are not used to determine benefits or reimbursement. Please reference the appropriate certificate or contract for benefit information.

Enterprise: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Department: Medical Affairs
Effective Date: January 1, 2015
Next Review Date: 4th Quarter 2023

Clinical Supervision of Non-Physician Mental Health Providers

Background:

Blue Cross will normally cover the services of any fully licensed nonphysician mental health practitioner if the practitioner is supervised by an M.D., D.O., or fully licensed psychologist and billed by the supervising M.D., D.O., or fully licensed psychologist.

Blue Cross recognizes three levels of supervision:

- General--procedure furnished under the physician's overall direction and control, presence not required during performance of the procedure
- Direct--physician must be present in the office suite and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure
- Personal--physician must be in attendance in the room during the performance of the procedure

Credentialed providers identified in this medical policy can receive direct payment for their services whether in the office setting, clinic, or hospital outpatient department, with a fee schedule set at 80% of that for comparable services offered by fully licensed psychologists.

Clinical social workers (ie, LMSWs)

Licensed social worker with a Masters degree who is credentialed to provide psychotherapy.

Psychotherapy is defined in the Rules as the assessment, diagnosis, or treatment of mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders, conditions, addictions, or other biopsychosocial problems and may include the involvement of the intrapsychic, intrapersonal, or psychosocial dynamics of individuals.

Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs)

Under the Michigan Public Health Code, Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) are individuals licensed to engage in the practice of counseling. Psychotherapy is within the scope of practice for LPCs.

Licensed Marriage Family Therapists (LMFTs)

Marriage and family therapists treat a wide range of serious clinical problems including: depression, marital problems, anxiety, individual psychological problems, and child-parent problems.

“Practice of marital and family therapy” means the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders that are referenced in the standard diagnostic nomenclature for marital and family therapy, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within the context of human relationships, particularly marital and family systems.

Limited licensed psychologists (LLPs)

Individuals with a Master’s degree in psychology who require educational supervision by a licensed psychologist with at least 3 years of experience in the practice of psychology. LLPs must prohibit advertising or other representation to the public that will lead the public to believe they are engaging in the practice of psychology.

Medical Policy Statement:

LMSWs, LPCs, and LMFTs may provide covered services within their identified scope of practice in all payable locations of service without supervision.

LLPs may provide covered services within their scope of practice, all payable locations of service under general supervision, as defined above.

Scope:

This policy applies to all underwritten contracts and self-funded or ASC contracts.

Policy Effective Date	BCBSM Signature Date	Comments
01/01/2016	12/23/2015	BCBSM policy established
01/01/2016	12/16/2016	Policy updated with minor changes
01/01/2016	09/27/2017	Annual review – Minor changes were made to the medical policy format.
01/01/2016	11/20/2018	Routine maintenance
01/01/2016	09/24/2019	Routine maintenance. Internal meeting was held to discuss concerns regarding this policy and if the policy is still required. Consensus from meeting is to maintain the routine maintenance of this policy.
01/01/2016	11/5/2020	Additional language included and formatting changes have occurred.
01/01/2016	11/11/2021	Routine maintenance
01/01/2016	11/10/2022	Routine maintenance