

Professional group practice, outpatient psychiatric care facility

Provider type comparison

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

June 2026

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This document outlines the similarities and differences between a professional group practice and an outpatient psychiatric care facility (OPC). Both provider types deliver outpatient behavioral healthcare to members but with some key differences. Understanding these differences is important to ensure appropriate reimbursement, regulatory compliance and alignment with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network guidelines.

What is a professional group practice?

A professional group practice is a formalized practice group comprised of behavioral health practitioners that provides behavioral health outpatient services.

What is an outpatient psychiatric care facility?

An OPC delivers ambulatory mental health services such as psychiatric evaluation, medication management, psychotherapy, crisis stabilization, and often integrated case management. An OPC may also provide higher levels of care, such as intensive outpatient programs (IOPs) and partial hospitalization programs (PHPs).

What are the similarities and differences between a professional group practice and an OPC?

A comparison of the two provider types is shown in the following table:

	Professional group practice	Outpatient psychiatric care facility
Scope of services	- Individual psychotherapy - Group psychotherapy - Psychiatric evaluation - Medication management	- Individual psychotherapy - Group psychotherapy - Psychiatric evaluation - Medication management

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	Professional group practice	Outpatient psychiatric care facility
	- Family therapy - Psychological testing - Intensive outpatient programs	- Family therapy - Psychological testing - Intensive outpatient programs - Partial hospitalization programs - Mobile crisis - Crisis stabilization - Adult/child intensive services
Staffing requirements	Staff include fully licensed behavioral health providers who are eligible to be credentialed and individually participate with Blue Cross or BCN. Note: BCN requires providers to be credentialed as individuals before affiliating with a contracted group.	- A board-certified or board-eligible psychiatrist - A fully licensed psychologist or master's level limited licensed psychologist (LLP), or PhD LLP with a supervisory or consulting licensed psychologist, or LP contractual relationship - A licensed master's social worker (LMSW) In addition: - A roster is required at enrollment and recredentialing. - Blue Cross and BCN don't require credentialing of each individual provider within an OPC.
Regulatory requirements	N/A	- Organization is a legal entity - Full accreditation by one of the following: - The Joint Commission (TJC) - American Osteopathic Association (AOA) - Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children (COA)

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		○ Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) ○ National Council on Accreditation (NCQA) ○ MDHHS certification letter for community mental health services
Organizational structure	All professional and clinical providers on staff have current licensure and current CAQH attestations, as required.	• The core leadership team assumes overall responsibility for quality and coordination of care for all patients. • All professional and clinical providers on staff have current licensure and current CAQH attestations, as required.
Incident-to billing	Not permitted.	Permitted for specific provider types if requirements are met.
General billing requirements	Claims are submitted on the CMS-1500 under the rendering provider.	Claims are submitted on the CMS-1500 under the OPC's NPI (with applicable modifiers). Note: Claims for higher levels of care are submitted on the UB-04 and require a contract for BCN (PHP).
Enrollment requirements	• Type 2 NPI • Tax identification number and Internal Revenue Service document • Approval letter from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services if requesting a Medicare Advantage network	• Type 2 NPI specific to the OPC facility • Tax identification number and Internal Revenue Service document • Liability/malpractice insurance verification • Full accreditation • Primary practice location in Michigan • Identified owner of facility

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	Professional group practice	Outpatient psychiatric care facility
Networks	- Blue Cross (PPO) - Blue Care Network (HMO) - Medicare Plus BlueSM - BCN AdvantageSM	- Blue Cross (PPO) - Blue Care Network (HMO)

Additional information

For information about enrolling with Blue Cross or BCN visit the [Join Our Provider Network](#) webpage at **bcbsm.com**.

For more information, see the following documents on **bcbsm.com**:

- The [Professional Enrollment Required Document Checklist](#) and the [Facility Enrollment Required Document Checklist](#)
- [Clinical program requirements for OPCs](#)
- [Enrollment helpful hints for OPCs](#)

In addition, refer to our *Incident-to Services and Billing – Professional* reimbursement policy, which is available in the Secure Provider Resources section of our provider portal. To access this document:

- Within our payer space, click on the *Resources* tab and then click on *Secure Provider Resources (Blue Cross and BCN)*. ([Learn how to access our provider portal payer space.](#))
- Under the *Billing and Claims* tab, click on *Medical and Reimbursement Policies* from the drop-down menu, and then choose *Blue Cross and BCN Reimbursement Policies*.