

Outpatient Services Modalities

Mental Health Rehabilitation services are integrated treatment services recommended by a mental health professional furnished by state licensed Community Mental Health Agencies. Services are provided to seriously mentally ill adults and seriously emotionally disturbed children for whom the services are determined to be medically necessary. These services must be provided to reach the goals of an Individualized Service Plan. Payment rates are established per Attachment 4.19-B XVIII.

The services to be provided are:

- Brief Intervention Treatment;
- Crisis services;
- Day Support;
- Family treatment;
- Freestanding Evaluation and Treatment;
- Group treatment services;
- High Intensity Treatment;
- Individual Treatment Services;
- Intake evaluation;
- Medication Management;
- Medication Monitoring;
- Mental Health Services provided in Residential settings;
- Peer Support;
- Psychological Assessment;
- Rehabilitation Case Management;
- Special population evaluation;
- Stabilization Services; and,
- Therapeutic psychoeducation.

A. Definition of medical necessity as it relates to mental health services

Medical necessity or medically necessary – “A term for describing a requested service which is reasonably calculated to prevent, diagnose, correct, cure, alleviate or prevent the worsening of conditions in the recipient that endanger life, or cause suffering or pain, or result in illness or infirmity, or threaten to cause or aggravate a handicap, or cause of physical deformity or malfunction, and there is no other equally effective, more conservative or substantially less costly course of treatment available or suitable for the person requesting service. For the purpose of this chapter "course of treatment" may include mere observation, or where appropriate, no treatment at all.

Additionally, the individual must be determined to 1) have a mental illness covered by Washington State for public mental health services; 2) the individual's impairment(s) and corresponding need(s) must be the result of a mental illness; 3) the intervention is deemed to be reasonably necessary to improve, stabilize or prevent deterioration of functioning resulting from the presence of a mental illness; 4) the individual is expected to benefit from the intervention; and 5) any other formal or informal system or support can not address the individual's unmet need.

Medical necessity is determined by a mental health professional. All state plan modality services are accessible based on clinical assessment, medical necessity and individual need. Individuals will develop with their mental health care provider an appropriate individual service plan. The services are provided by Community Mental Health Agencies licensed or certified by the Mental Health Division and provided by, or under the supervision of, a mental health professional. Services are assured in accordance with 1902(a)(23).

The following is a descriptive list of the employees or contracted staff of community mental health agencies providing care.

(1) Mental health professional means:

- (1) A psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric nurse or social worker as defined in chapter 71.05 and 71.34 RCW;
- (2) A person with a masters degree or further advanced degree in counseling or one of the social sciences from an accredited college or university. Such person shall have, in addition, at least two years of experience in direct treatment of persons with mental illness or emotional disturbance, such experience gained under the supervision of a mental health professional;
- (3) A person who meets the waiver criteria of RCW 71.24.260, which was granted prior to 1986.
- (4) A person who had an approved waiver to perform the duties of a mental health profession that was requested by the regional support network and granted by the mental health division prior to July 1, 2001; or
- (5) A person who has been granted a time-limited exception of the minimum requirements of a mental health professional by the mental health division consistent with WAC 388-865-265.

Within the definition above are the following:

- "Psychiatrist" means a person having a license as a physician in this state who has completed residency training in psychiatry in a program approved by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association, and is board eligible or board certified in psychiatry.

- "Psychologist" means a person who has been licensed as a psychologist pursuant to chapter [18.83](#) RCW;
- "Social worker" means a person with a master's or further advanced degree from an accredited school of social work or a degree deemed equivalent under rules adopted by the secretary;
- "Child psychiatrist" means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon in this state, who has had graduate training in child psychiatry in a program approved by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association, and who is board eligible or board certified in child psychiatry.
- "Psychiatric nurse" means a registered nurse who has a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, and who has had, in addition, at least two years experience in the direct treatment of mentally ill or emotionally disturbed persons, such experience gained under the supervision of a mental health professional. "Psychiatric nurse" shall also mean any other registered nurse who has three years of such experience.
- "Counselor" means an individual, practitioner, therapist, or analyst who engages in the practice of counseling to the public for a fee.

(2) "Mental Health Care Provider" means the individual with primary responsibility for implementing an individualized plan for mental health rehabilitation services. Minimum qualifications are B.A. level in a related field, A.A. level with two years experience in the mental health or related fields.

(3) "Peer Counselor" means the individual who has self identified as a consumer or survivor of mental health services. Who has received specialized training provided/contracted by the Mental Health Division passed a written/oral test, which includes both written and oral components of the training. Who has passed a Washington State background check, been certified by the Mental Health Division and is registered as a counselor with the Department of Health.

Peer Counselors must self identify as a consumer or survivor of mental health services.

Peer Counselors must demonstrate:

1. That they are well grounded in their own recovery for at least one year;
2. Willingness to a pretest for reading comprehension and language composition; and,
3. Qualities of leadership, including governance, advocacy, creation, implementation or facilitation of peer-to-peer groups or activities.

Peer Counselors must be able to:

- Identify services and activities that promote recovery by instilling hope and experiences which lead to meaning and purpose, and which decrease stigma in the environments in which they serve;
- Articulate points in their own recovery stories that are relevant to the obstacles faced by consumers of mental health services;
- Promote personal responsibility for recovery as the individual consumer or mental health services defines recovery;
- Implement recovery practices in the broad arena of mental health services delivery system;
- Provide a wide range of tasks to assist consumers in regaining control over their own lives and recovery process (e.g., promoting socialization, self advocacy, developing natural supports stable living arrangements, education, supported employment);
- Serve as a consumer advocate;
- Provide consumer information and peer support in a range of settings; and,
- Model competency in recovery and ongoing coping skills.

The training provided/contracted by the mental health division shall be focused on the principles and concepts of recovery and how this differs from the medical model, the creation of self-help and coping skills and advocacy. Training will include:

- Understanding the public mental health system;
- What is peer support and how it promotes recovery;
- How to advocate for age appropriate peer support projects;
- How to facilitate groups and teams;
- Understanding self-directed recovery;
- How to create your own self-help coping skills plan;
- How to start and sustain self-help/mutual support groups;
- How to form and sustain a personal support team;
- How to promote recovery, self-determination and community reintegration;
- Assist consumers to do for themselves and each other;
- Assist in skill building, goal setting, problem solving;
- Assist consumers to build their own self-directed recovery tools; and,
- Assist consumers by supporting them in the development of an individual service plan that has recovery goals and specific steps to attain each goal.

Peer Counselors who were trained prior to the implementation of the Washington Administrative Code by National Consultants to be Certified facilitators who pass the test and the background check may be grandfathered as Peer counselors until January 2005. After January 2005, it will be necessary for them to take the training.

4) "Registered nurse" means a person licensed to practice registered nursing under chapter [18.79](#) RCW.

5) "Nurse practitioner" means a person licensed to practice advanced registered nursing under chapter [18.79](#) RCW.

6) "Licensed practical nurse" means a person licensed to practice practical nursing under chapter [18.79](#) RCW.

7). "Mental health specialist" means:

(1) A "child mental health specialist" is defined as a mental health professional with the following education and experience:

(a) A minimum of one hundred actual hours (not quarter or semester hours) of special training in child development and the treatment of children and youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families; and

(b) The equivalent of one year of full-time experience in the treatment of seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth and their families under the supervision of a child mental health specialist.

(2) A "geriatric mental health specialist" is defined as a mental health professional who has the following education and experience:

(a) A minimum of one hundred actual hours (not quarter or semester hours) of specialized training devoted to the mental health problems and treatment of persons sixty years of age or older; and

(b) The equivalent of one year of full-time experience in the treatment of persons sixty years of age or older, under the supervision of a geriatric mental health specialist.

(3) An "ethnic minority mental health specialist" is defined as a mental health professional who has demonstrated cultural competence attained through major commitment, ongoing training, experience and/or specialization in serving ethnic minorities, including evidence of one year of service specializing in serving the ethnic minority group under the supervision of an ethnic minority mental health specialist; and

(a) Evidence of support from the ethnic minority community attesting to the person's commitment to that community; or

(b) A minimum of one hundred actual hours (not quarter or semester hours) of specialized training devoted to ethnic minority issues and treatment of ethnic minority consumers.

(4) A "disability mental health specialist" is defined as a mental health professional with special expertise in working with an identified disability group. For purposes of this chapter only, "disabled" means an individual with a disability other than a mental illness, including a developmental disability, serious physical handicap, or sensory impairment.

(a) If the consumer is deaf, the specialist must be a mental health professional with:

(i) Knowledge about the deaf culture and psychosocial problems faced by people who are deaf; and

(ii) Ability to communicate fluently in the preferred language system of the consumer.

(b) The specialist for consumers with developmental disabilities must be a mental health professional who:

- (i) Has at least one year's experience working with people with developmental disabilities; or
- (ii) Is a developmental disabilities professional as defined in RCW 71.05.020.

Staff Supervision means monitoring the administrative, clinical or clerical work performance of staff, students, interns, volunteers or contracted employees by persons with the authority to direct employment activities and require change. When supervision is clinical in nature, it shall occur regularly and may be provided without the consumer present or may include direct observation of the delivery of clinical care. Supervisory activities include the review of all aspects of clinical care including but not limited to review of assessment, diagnostic formulation, treatment planning, progress toward completion of care, identification of barriers to care, continuation of service and authorization of care.

B. Definitions

1) Brief Intervention Treatment: Solution focused and outcomes oriented cognitive and behavioral interventions intended to ameliorate symptoms, resolve situational disturbances which are not amenable to resolution in a crisis service model of care and which do not require long term-treatment, to return the individual to previous higher levels of general functioning. Individuals must be able to select and identify a focus for care that is consistent with time-limited, solution-focused or cognitive-behavioral model of treatment. Functional problems and/or needs identified in the Medicaid enrollee's Individual Service Plan must include a specific time frame for completion of each identified goal. This service does not include ongoing care, maintenance/monitoring of the enrollee's current level of functioning and assistance with self/care or life skills training. Enrollees may move from Brief Intervention Treatment to longer term Individual Services at any time during the course of care. This service is provided by or under the supervision of a Mental Health Professional.

2) Crisis Services: Evaluation and treatment of mental health crisis to all Medicaid enrolled individuals experiencing a crisis. A mental health crisis is defined as a turning point in the course of anything decisive or critical, a time, a stage, or an event or a time of great danger or trouble, whose outcome decides whether possible bad consequences will follow. Crisis services shall be available on a 24-hour basis. Crisis Services are intended to stabilize the person in crisis, prevent further deterioration and provide immediate treatment and intervention in a location best suited to meet the needs of the individual and in the least restrictive environment available. Crisis services may be provided prior to completion of an intake evaluation. Services are provided by or under the supervision of a mental health professional.

3) Day Support: An intensive rehabilitative program which provides a range of integrated and varied life skills training (e.g., health, hygiene, nutritional issues, money management, maintaining living arrangement, symptom management) for Medicaid enrollees to promote improved functioning or a restoration to a previous higher level of functioning. The program is designed to assist the individual in the acquisition of skills, retention of current functioning or improvement in the current level of functioning, appropriate socialization and adaptive coping skills. Eligible individuals must demonstrate restricted functioning as evidenced by an inability to provide for their activities of daily living. This modality may be provided as an adjunctive treatment or as a primary intervention. The staff to consumer ratio is no more than 1:20 and is provided by or under the supervision of a mental health professional in a location easily accessible to the client (e.g., community mental health agencies, schools, clubhouses, community centers). This service is available 5 hours per day, 5 days per week.

4) Family Treatment: Counseling provided for the direct benefit of a Medicaid enrolled individual. Service is provided with family members and/or other relevant persons in attendance as active participants. Treatment shall be appropriate to the culture of the client and their family and should reinforce the family structure, improve communication and awareness, enforce and reintegrate the family structure within the community, and reduce the family crisis/upheaval. The treatment is intended to benefit the client to obtain reintegration and recovery into the community. Family treatment may take place without the consumer present in the room but service must be for the benefit of attaining the goals identified for the individual in their individual service plan. This service is provided by or under the supervision of a mental health professional.

5) “Freestanding Evaluation and Treatment” Services provided in freestanding inpatient residential (non-hospital/non-IMD) facilities licensed by the Department of Health and certified by the Mental Health Division to provide medically necessary evaluation and treatment to the Medicaid enrolled individual who would otherwise meet hospital admission criteria. These are not-for-profit organizations. At a minimum, services include evaluation, stabilization and treatment provided by or under the direction of licensed psychiatrists, nurses and other mental health professionals, and discharge planning involving the individual, family, significant others so as to ensure continuity of mental health care. Nursing care includes but is not limited to, performing routine blood draws, monitoring vital signs, providing injections, administering medications, observing behaviors and presentation of symptoms of mental illness. Treatment modalities may include individual and family therapy, milieu therapy, psycho-educational groups and pharmacology. The individual is discharged as soon as a less-restrictive plan for treatment can be safely implemented.

This service is provided for individuals who pose an actual or imminent danger to self, others, or property due to a mental illness, or who have experienced a marked decline in their ability to care for self due to the onset or exacerbation of

a psychiatric disorder. The severity of symptoms, intensity of treatment needs or lack of necessary supports for the individual does not allow them to be managed at a lesser level of care. This service does not include cost for room and board.

The Mental Health Division must authorize exceptions for involuntary length of stay beyond a fourteen-day commitment.

6) Group Treatment Services: Services provided to Medicaid enrolled individuals designed to assist in the attainment of goals described in the Individual Service Plan. Goals of Group Treatment may include developing self care and/or life skills, enhancing interpersonal skills, mitigating the symptoms of mental illness, and lessening the results of traumatic experiences, learning from the perspective and experiences of others and counseling/psychotherapy to establish and /or maintain stability in living, work or educational environment. Individuals eligible for Group Treatment must demonstrate an ability to benefit from experiences shared by others, demonstrate the ability to participate in a group dynamic process in a manner that is respectful of other's right to confidential treatment and must be able to integrate feedback from other group members. This service is provided by or under the supervision of a mental health professional to two or more Medicaid enrolled individuals at the same time. Staff to consumer ratio is no more than 1:12. Maximum group size is 24.

7) High Intensity Treatment: Intensive service that is provided to Medicaid enrolled individuals who require a multi-disciplinary treatment team in the community that is available during extended hours. Twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, access is required if necessary for the individual. The team consists of the individual, Mental Health Care Providers, under the supervision of a mental health professional, and other relevant persons as determined by the individual (e.g., family, guardian, friends, neighbor). Other community agency members may include probation/parole officers*, teacher, minister, physician, chemical dependency counselor*, etc. Team member's work together to provide intensive coordinated and integrated treatment as described in the individual service plan. The team's intensity varies among individuals and for each individual across time. The team also has the ability to promptly assess, re-assess, and modify the individual service plan if the need arises. The team closely monitors symptoms and provides immediate feedback to the individual and to other team members. The team service intensity is individualized based upon continual assessment of need and adjustment to the individual service plan. Goals for High Intensity Treatment include the reinforcement of safety, the promotion of stability and independence of the individual in the community, and the restoration to a higher level of functioning. These services are designed to rehabilitate individuals who are experiencing severe symptoms in the community and thereby avoid more restrictive levels of care such as psychiatric inpatient hospitalization or residential placement. Services provided by the mental health professionals, mental health care providers and peer counselors are billable

components of this modality. The staff to consumer ratio for this service is no more than 1:15.

*Although they participate, these team members are paid staff of other Departments and therefore not reimbursed under this modality.

8) Individual Treatment Services: A set of treatment services designed to help a Medicaid enrolled individual attain goals as prescribed in their individual treatment plan. These services shall be congruent with the age, strengths, and cultural framework of the individual and shall be conducted with the individual, his or her family, or others at the individual's behest who play a direct role in assisting the individual to establish and/or maintain stability in his/her daily life. These services may include, developing the individual's self-care/life skills; monitoring the individual's functioning; counseling and psychotherapy. Services shall be offered at the location preferred by the Medicaid enrolled individual. This service is provided by or under the supervision of a mental health professional.

9) Intake Evaluation: An evaluation that is culturally and age relevant initiated prior to the provision of any other mental health services, except crisis services, services, stabilization services and free-standing evaluation and treatment. The intake evaluation must be initiated within ten (10) working days of the request for services, establish the medical necessity for treatment and be completed within thirty (30) working days. Routine services may begin before the completion of the intake once medical necessity is established. This service is provided by a mental health professional.

10) Medication Management: The prescribing and/or administering and reviewing of medications and their side effects. This service shall be rendered face-to-face by a person licensed to perform such services. This service may be provided in consultation with collateral, a primary therapist, and/or case managers, but includes only minimal psychotherapy.

11) Medication Monitoring: Face-to-face one-on-one cueing, observing, and encouraging a Medicaid enrolled individual to take medications as prescribed. Also includes reporting back to persons licensed to perform medication management services for the direct benefit of the Medicaid enrolled individual. This activity may take place at any location and for as long as it is clinically necessary. This service is designed to facilitate medication compliance and positive outcomes. Enrollees with low medication compliance history or persons newly on medication are most likely to receive this service. This service is provided by or under the supervision of a mental health professional. Time spent with the enrollee is the only direct service billable component of this modality.

12) Mental Health Services provided in Residential Settings: A specialized form of rehabilitation service (non hospital/non IMD) that offers a sub-acute psychiatric management environment. Medicaid enrolled individuals receiving this service

present with severe impairment in psychosocial functioning or has apparent mental illness symptoms with an unclear etiology due to their mental illness and treatment cannot be safely provided in a less restrictive environment and do not meet hospital admission criteria. Individuals in this service require a different level of service than High Intensity Treatment. The Mental Health Care Provider is sited at the residential location (e.g., boarding homes, supported housing, cluster housing, SRO apartments) for extended hours to provide direct mental health care to a Medicaid enrollee. Therapeutic interventions both in individual and group format may include medication management and monitoring, stabilization, and cognitive and behavioral interventions designed with the intent to stabilize the individual and return him/her to more independent and less restrictive treatment. The treatment is not for the purpose of providing custodial care or respite for the family, nor is it for the sole purpose of increasing social activity or used as a substitute for other community-based resources. This service is only billable for a maximum of 16 hours per day per consumer. This service is billable on a daily rate. This service does not include the costs for room and board, custodial care, and medical services, and differs for other services in the terms of location and duration.

13) Peer Support: Services provided by certified Peer counselors to Medicaid enrolled individuals under the consultation, facilitation or supervision of a mental health professional who understands rehabilitation and recovery. This service provides scheduled activities that promote socialization, recovery, self-advocacy, development of natural supports, and maintenance of community living skills. These services may include for Medicaid enrollees, self-help support groups, telephone support lines, drop-in centers, and engaging activities to locations where consumers are known to gather. Drop-in centers are required to maintain a log documenting identification of the consumer including Medicaid eligibility. This includes locations such as churches, parks, community centers, etc. Services are geared toward consumers with severe and persistent mental illness. Consumers actively participate in decision-making and the operation of the programmatic supports.

Services provided by Peer counselors to the consumer are noted in the consumers' Individualized Service Plan delineates specific goals that are flexible, tailored to the consumer and attempt to utilize community and natural supports. Monthly progress notes document consumer progress relative to goals identified in the Individualized Service Plan, but treatment goals have not yet been achieved.

Peer counselors are responsible for the implementation of peer support services. Peer counselors may serve on High Intensity Treatment Teams.

Peer support is available daily no more than four hours per day. The ratio for this service is no more than 1:20.

These services will not be billed until the peer counselors have passed all the requirements and are registered with the Department of Health.

14) Psychological Assessment: All psychometric services provided for evaluating, diagnostic, or therapeutic purposes by or under the supervision of a licensed psychologist. Psychological assessments shall: be culturally relevant; provide information relevant to a consumers continuation in appropriate treatment; and assist in treatment planning within a licensed mental health agency.

15) Rehabilitation Case Management: A range of activities by the outpatient community mental health agency's liaison conducted in or with a facility for the direct benefit of a Medicaid-enrolled individual in the public mental health system. To be eligible, the individual must be in need of case management in order to ensure timely and appropriate treatment and care coordination. Activities include assessment for discharge or admission community to mental health care, integrated mental health treatment planning, resource identification and linkage, to mental health rehabilitative services, and collaborative development of individualized services that promote continuity of mental health care. These specialized mental health coordination activities are intended to promote discharge, to maximize the benefits of the placement, and to minimize the risk of unplanned readmission and to increase the community tenure for the individual. Services are provided by or under the supervision of a mental health professional.

16) Special Population Evaluation: evaluation by a child, geriatric, disabled, or ethnic minority specialist that considers age and cultural variables specific to the individual being evaluated and other culturally and age competent evaluation methods. This evaluation shall provide information relevant to a consumer's continuation in appropriate treatment and assist in treatment planning. This evaluation occurs after intake. Consultation from a non-staff specialist (employed by another CMHA or contracted by the CMHA) may also be obtained, if needed, subsequent to this evaluation and shall be considered an integral, billable component of this service.

17) Stabilization Services: Services provided to Medicaid enrolled individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis. These services are to be provided in the person's own home, or another home-like setting, or a setting which provides safety for the individual and the mental health professional. Stabilization services shall include short-term (less than two weeks per episode) face-to-face assistance with life skills training, and understanding of medication effects. This service includes: a) follow up to crisis services; and b) other individuals determined by a mental health professional to need additional stabilization services. Stabilization services may be provided prior to an intake evaluation for mental health services.

18) Therapeutic Psychoeducation: Informational and experiential services designed to aid Medicaid enrolled individuals, their family members (e.g., spouse, parents, siblings) and other individuals identified by the individual as a primary natural support, in the management of psychiatric conditions and understanding the importance of their individual plan of care. These services are exclusively for the benefit of the Medicaid enrolled individual and are included in the Individual Service Plan.

The primary goal is to restore lost functioning and promote reintegration and recovery through knowledge of one's disease, the symptoms, precautions related to decompensation, understanding of the "triggers" of crisis, crisis planning, community resources, successful interrelations, medication action and interaction, etc. Training and shared information may include brain chemistry and functioning; latest research on mental illness causes and treatments; diagnostics; medication education and management; symptom management; behavior management; stress management; crisis management; improving daily living skills; independent living skills; problem-solving skills, etc.

Services are provided at locations convenient to the consumer, by or under the supervision of a mental health professional. Classroom style teaching, family treatment and individual treatment are not billable components of this service.

1915 (B) (3) Services

Respite Care - is a service to sustain the primary caregivers of children with serious or emotional disorders or adults with mental illness. This is accomplished by providing observation, direct support and monitoring to meet the physical, emotional, social and mental health needs of an individual consumer by someone other than the primary care givers. Respite care should be provided in a manner that provides necessary relief to caregivers. Respite may be provided on a planned or an emergent basis and may be provided in a variety of settings such as in the consumer or caregiver's home, in an organization's facilities, in the respite worker's home etc. The care should be flexible to ensure that the individual's daily routine is maintained. Respite is provided by, or under the supervision of, a mental health professional. Respite under this waiver is only available to those consumers who do not have this coverage under some other federal program

Supported Employment - is a service for Medicaid enrollees who are currently neither receiving nor who are on a waiting list to receive federally funded vocational services such as those provided through the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Services will include:

- An assessment of work history, skills, training, education, and personal career goals.

- Information about how employment will affect income and benefits the consumer is receiving because of their disability.
- Preparation skills such as resume development and interview skills.
- Involvement with consumers served in creating and revising individualized job and career development plans that include;
 - (a) Consumer strengths
 - (b) Consumer abilities
 - (c) Consumer preferences
 - (d) Consumer's desired outcomes
- Assistance in locating employment opportunities that is consistent with the consumer's strengths abilities, preferences, and desired outcomes.
- Integrated supported employment, including outreach/job coaching and support in a normalized or integrated work site, if required.
- Services are provided by or under the supervision of a mental health professional.

Mental Health Clubhouse - is a service specifically contracted by the PIHP to provide a consumer directed program to Medicaid enrollees where they receive multiple services. These services may be in the form of support groups, related meetings, consumer training, peer support, etc. Consumers may drop in on a daily basis and participate, as they are able. Services include the following:

- Opportunities to work within the clubhouse, such work contributes to the operation and enhancement of the clubhouse community;
- Opportunities to participate in administration, public relations, advocacy and evaluation of clubhouse effectiveness;
- Assistance with employment opportunities; housing, transportation, education and benefits planning
- Opportunities for socialization activities.

Mental Health Clubhouses are not an alternative for day support services.