

Memo

Date: May 16, 2024

To: All Non-Fee for Service Outpatient ACBHD SMHS Medi-Cal Providers

From: Torfeh Rejali, LMFT, Division Director, Quality Assurance *Torfeh Rejali*

Subject: Procedure Codes for Peer Support Services (PSS)

The purpose of this memo is to announce the activation in SmartCare of new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPS) and Family Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPS-F).

Background

Per Department of Health Care Services [BHIN 22-026](#), in accordance with proposed [SPA 23-0026](#), Peer Support Specialists have become recognized as a unique provider type authorized to provide SMHS and SUD services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Additionally, Peer Support Services, provided by Certified Peer Support Specialists, have become recognized as a distinct service type and a Medi-Cal benefit.

There are a number of requirements associated with Certified Peer Support Specialists, some of which include the following:

- Passing a certification examination approved by DHCS for a Peer Support Specialist.
- Completion of up to 20 hours of continuing education per year, as specified by DHCS.
- Documentation requirements described in BHIN 23-068.
- Specific supervision and oversight requirements.
- Use of designated taxonomy (175T00000X) and procedure codes to bill for services.

Please refer to the [DHCS Peer Support Services website](#) as well as the following Behavioral Health Information Notices (BHINs) for specific PSS requirements: [DHCS BHIN 21-041](#), [DHCS BHIN 22-026](#), [DHCS BHIN 23-068](#).

Certified Peer Support Specialist Procedure Codes

The following designated procedure codes are exclusively for use by Certified Peer Support Specialists and are the only codes that should be used by Certified Peer Support Specialists for claiming:

1. **H0025 PSS Educational Skill Building Groups, 15 mins.** - Use this code to report PSS group services (member is present).
2. **H0025 PSS Family Educational Skill Building Groups, 15 mins.** - Use this code to report PSS group services to the peer's family and/or other significant support persons (member is not present).
3. **H0038 PSS Engagement/Therapeutic Activity, 15 mins.** - Use this code to report individual PSS (member is present).
4. **H0038 PSS Family Engagement/Therapeutic Activity, 15 mins.** - Use this code to report individual PSS to the peer's family and/or other significant support persons (member is not present).

ACBHD legacy peer providers who do not meet DHCS Peer Support Specialist Certification requirements may continue to claim for services using the procedure codes allowed for Other/Adjunct. See [ACBHD Guidelines for Scope of Practice](#) posted on the [QA Manual](#) page of the Provider website for details.

Definitions for the above services are as follows:

- **Educational Skill Building Groups means** providing a supportive environment in which beneficiaries and their families learn coping mechanisms and problem-solving skills in order to help the beneficiaries achieve desired outcomes. These groups promote skill building for the beneficiaries in the areas of socialization, recovery, self-sufficiency, self-advocacy, development of natural supports, and maintenance of skills learned in other support services.
- **Engagement means** Peer Support Specialist led activities and coaching to encourage and support beneficiaries to participate in behavioral health treatment. Engagement may include supporting beneficiaries in their transitions between levels of care and supporting beneficiaries in developing their own recovery goals and processes.
- **Therapeutic Activity means** a structured non-clinical activity provided by a Peer Support Specialist to promote recovery, wellness, self-advocacy, relationship enhancement, development of natural supports, self-awareness and values, and the maintenance of community living skills to support the beneficiary's treatment to attain and maintain recovery within their communities. These activities may include, but are not limited to, advocacy on behalf of the beneficiary; promotion of self-advocacy; resource navigation; and collaboration with the beneficiaries and others providing care or support to the beneficiary, family members, or significant support persons.

Services provided to family members or other significant support persons must always be for the treatment of the member. Documentation of services to peer family members or significant support persons should reflect how the activity was related to the member's treatment.

Action Required

These codes are available for immediate use by staff with existing CPS/CPS-F designations in SmartCare who are linked to a certified Mental Health Outpatient program(s). ACBHD is pending clarification from DHCS on the appropriate set-up for inpatient and residential programs before making the codes available in those programs.

Any program wishing to designate an individual as a CPS/CPS-F must submit a staff [e-Form](#) request to either add a new CPS/CPS-F or update an existing staff member's licensing information with the CPS/CPS-F "license/degree type." Once completed, ACBHD Benefits & Billing Unit will add the CPS/CPS-F procedure codes to your program.

For questions, please contact QATA@acgov.org.