



NETWORK *Notification*

Notice Date: July 17, 2025
To: Ohio Marketplace Providers
From: CareSource
Subject: Mid-Level Behavioral Health Practitioner Update
Effective Date: January 1, 2025

Summary

CareSource Marketplace contracts typically pay 100% of the Medicare allowable rate. Upon the release of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS') [Medicare Learning Network Booklet on Medicare and Mental Health Coverage](#), CareSource is updating reimbursement for mid-level/non-physician mental health practitioners to align with CMS reimbursement rates. The CMS' Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) is paid at 100% for Physicians (MD or DO) and Clinical Psychologists. Other eligible provider types are paid a percentage of the PFS rate based on their specific provider type. Prior to July 10, 2025, CareSource has been reimbursing non-physician providers (NPP) at the higher physician rate.

Impact

CMS amended their Medicare policy as of January 1, 2024, allowing mid-level providers to bill independently for mental health services at a percentage of the physician allowable rate. Most notably to behavioral health is that mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists were codified as eligible to bill Medicare in addition to the existing eligible provider of social worker. Additionally, chemical dependency counselors who meet all the applicable requirements of a mental health counselor may enroll and bill Medicare for service within their scope. These non-physician practitioners are paid at a rate 75% of the full physician rate.

Importance

On January 1, 2024, CMS added mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist as eligible billing provider types with a reimbursement rate of 75% of the Physician Fee Schedule. CareSource is implementing this change beginning January 1, 2025. Effective July 10, 2025, claims for these non-physician provider types and a date of service after January 1, 2025, will reimburse consistent with the federal methodology. We apologize for any confusion this has caused our health partners. CareSource values clinicians and the service they provide to our members as a critical part of our mental health workforce.

Questions?

For additional questions, please contact Provider Services at **1-800-488-0134** (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

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