



State of New Jersey  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 31 No. 18

September 2021

**TO:** Independent Clinics - Drug and Alcohol – **For Action**  
Managed Care Organizations – **For Information Only**

**SUBJECT:** **Clarification of Peer Recovery Support Specialist Billing Requirements**

**EFFECTIVE:** July 1, 2019

**PURPOSE:** To update and replace Newsletter Volume 30, No. 26, Peer Recovery Support Specialist.

**BACKGROUND:** The New Jersey Medicaid 1115 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Waiver included Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) services to be added to the State Plan. The purpose of a PRSS is to support Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare beneficiaries throughout their continuum of care, improve transitions between levels of care, implement strategies to address opioid misuse related to an opioid use disorder, and reduce opioid related deaths.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), PRSS workers have been successful in the recovery process by helping others that are experiencing similar situations. Through shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment, peer support workers help people become and stay engaged in the recovery process, thereby reducing the likelihood of relapse. PRSS services can effectively extend the reach of treatment beyond the clinical setting into the everyday environment of those seeking a successful, sustained recovery process.

Under the supervision of a licensed clinical professional, Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CPRS) or National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists (NCPRSS) provide non-clinical assistance and support throughout all stages of the SUD recovery and rehabilitation process. Peer recovery support services are intended to provide individually-based direction, support, and encouragement for individuals in need of substance use disorder treatment. Peer services **may not** be provided in a group setting including, but not limited to, group educational, workshop, or training functions. Peer services must be coordinated within the context of an individualized care plan, as developed by a licensed clinician.

Certified peer recovery support specialists function in a wide range of activities that include, but are not limited to:

- reinforcing, guiding, and ensuring that recovery is built upon an individual's multiple strengths, coping abilities, and available resources;
- initiating individuals' interest in treatment services, recovery programs, and resources;
- reaching out to family, friends, treatment teams, and other key stakeholders;
- providing/supporting linkages to specialty services;
- being a positive role model;
- sharing experiential knowledge, hope, and skills;
- empathizing and self-disclosing past substance misuse history;
- sharing resources to build community relationships;
- mentoring and assisting the individual with problem solving, goal setting, and skill building;
- advocating for people in recovery; and
- participating in the treatment planning process.

**ACTION:** Effective July 1, 2019, Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare, Independent Clinic Drug and Alcohol providers of Outpatient SUD treatment can be reimbursed for PRSS services. Services may be provided and billed on an individual basis only and may not be provided in a group setting. Consistent with all services billed under Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare, providers utilizing PRSS services must comply with all federal Medicaid regulations and policy.

Prior to July 1, 2021, providers could bill peer services for individuals already certified, or actively seeking certification as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) by the NJ Addiction Professionals Certification Board, or as a National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist (NCPRSS) by the National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors/National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC/NCC AP). After July 1, 2021, billing will be restricted to peers who have been properly certified. Peer recovery support workers actively seeking certification shall complete a three-day ethics course, orientation, at a minimum, from an outpatient treatment provider. In addition, the workers should be assigned to, and meet regularly with, a supervisor who meets the qualifications within this newsletter, and has completed six months of employment or volunteer services at the agency.

**Effective July 1, 2021, for members of DDD, MLTSS and FIDE-SNP beneficiaries, this benefit will be covered by the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).**

## **Recordkeeping**

- (a) Any Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare funded behavioral health services provided by an independent clinic for an individual with SUD must be coordinated within the context of a treatment plan. Requirements for Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare Independent Clinic-Drug and Alcohol treatment plans can be found in N.J.A.C. 10:161B.
- (b) An individual record shall be prepared and retained by an independent clinic that fully discloses the kind and extent of the service provided to a Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare fee-for-service beneficiary.
- (c) At a minimum, a beneficiary's record shall include a progress note for each visit which supports the procedure code(s) billed. The progress note shall indicate the specific service rendered; the duration of the service provided; the setting in which the service was provided; and the outcome of the intervention such as, but not limited to, progress toward the identified goals.

## **Billing**

<b>Provider Specialty</b>	<b>PRSS Service Description</b>	<b>HCPCS Procedure Code/Modifier</b>	<b>Reimbursement Rate</b>
Independent Clinic, Drug and Alcohol (Outpatient Providers)	Peer Recovery Support Service, Per 15 Minutes, Individual (face-to-face)	H0038 HF	\$16.62

**Please Note: This new service is currently available to outpatient independent clinics-drug and alcohol ONLY. Currently, Peers may not be utilized by independent clinics-mental health.**

## **Staffing Rules**

- Peer staff members may not count as part of the staff/client ratio requirements in N.J.A.C. 10:161B-1.9 or N.J.A.C. 10:161B-10.1.
- Peer staff may not be substituted for substance abuse counseling staff and their job functions shall be limited to those listed in their job description.
- Beneficiaries shall be informed during the program intake process that the staff person is a peer, not a counselor, and shall be given a choice to work with peer staff.

## **PRSS Enrollment Requirements**

- The qualifications of an individual requesting participation as a Peer Recovery Support Specialist in an independent clinic setting including, but not limited to, an FQHC, OTP or CCBHC are:
  - lived experience with a minimum of two years of successful recovery from an SUD diagnosis, and;
  - certification as Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS)
- SUD Peer Recovery Support Specialists are required to receive certification as a National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist (NCPRSS) from NAADAC/NCC AP or as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) by the Addiction Professionals Certification Board, NJ.
- Independent clinics requesting NJFC Medicaid enrollment of a PRSS must complete and submit the **Independent Clinic Peer Recovery Support Specialist Addendum**. Effective July 1, 2021, **the clinic may only bill for peer recovery support services provided by certified peers**. The addendum can be found online under “provider applications” on [www.njmms.com](http://www.njmms.com). As part of the addendum, the independent clinic and the PRSS must complete individual **Lived Experience Attestations**.

**All Peer Recovery Support Specialists employed by agencies contracted with the State of New Jersey, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and/or enrolled in NJFC will be required to obtain certification by July 1, 2021. Effective July 1, 2021, the peer’s NPI number must be added to the claim under “servicing provider” to ensure payment.**

If you have any questions concerning this Newsletter, please contact the Office of Customer Service at 609-588-2765.

**RETAIN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**