



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 35 No. 01

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TO: Physicians, Psychologists, Advance Practice Nurses (APNs), Independent Clinics, Hospitals and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) - For Action

SUBJECT: Replacement of Newsletter Volume 34 No. 6 for the Addition of Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) as NJ FamilyCare (NJFC) Billing and/or Servicing Providers

EFFECTIVE: Claims with service dates on or after July 1, 2024

PURPOSE: To update the fee-for-service (FFS) enrollment process for LCSWs as billing and/or servicing providers. These specialties may now enroll as independent practitioners or be added to a group practice.

BACKGROUND: There is an increased need for community-based providers of psychotherapy and substance use counseling in New Jersey. The addition of LCSWs greatly increases the pool of available providers capable of meeting both the mental health and substance use needs of our NJ FamilyCare members. This should improve member access to services, supports, and ongoing treatment. In addition, the provision of supportive services in a community setting allows individuals to maintain relationships, continue employment, and sustain autonomy, with the ultimate goals of enhanced well-being and improved treatment retention.

ACTIONS:

Effective for fee-for-service (FFS) claims with service dates on or after July 1, 2024, NJFC will reimburse NJFC-enrolled LCSWs for psychotherapy and counseling services provided in their independent or group practices. MCOs are expected to reimburse LCSWs for the same services.

- LCSWs who currently provide FFS services as non-billing ROPA (Referring/Ordering/Prescribing/Attending) providers, who wish to continue only in that capacity, need not make any changes. Please note that ROPA providers cannot bill independently.
- Those LCSWs that wish to provide individually-billable services must enroll with NJFC as **rendering and billing providers** by completing the individual practitioner applications found under "Psychologist and Other Psychotherapy Providers" at www.njmmis.com under "Provider Enrollment Application".

- LCSWs that are enrolled as **rendering and billing providers** that wish to practice in a group or clinic must enroll as **rendering providers** for that group/clinic by completing the group practice enrollment applications found on www.njmmis.com. These groups may consist of physicians, psychologists, APNs, LCSWs, LPCs and/or LMFTs.
- LCSWs that are **not enrolled as rendering and billing providers** that wish to join existing group practices, or work for independent clinics, must enroll as **rendering providers** for those groups or clinics using the Group Application. **The group must submit a new group application listing the LCSWs under “List Practitioners to be added to the Group” (question 20).** One group application can be used to add as many new providers as desired.
- **Note that this Newsletter does not apply to psychotherapy and substance abuse counseling services provided by LCSWs working in outpatient hospital settings or FQHCs.**

Once enrolled, LCSWs must bill with appropriate Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes and modifier combinations for allowable mental health therapy and substance use counseling services.

- Services provided by LCSWs practicing independently or as part of a group practice must be billed with the AJHE or AJHF modifier for mental health therapy/SUD counseling.
- Services provided by LCSWs employed by independent clinics should continue to be billed using the appropriate HCPCS codes with the UC modifier for mental health or the HF modifier for substance use counseling.

Mental Health Billing for LCSWs

CPT Code	Service Description
90791AJHE	Psych diagnostic evaluation for mental health
90832AJHE	Psychotherapy individual/family 30 minutes
90834AJHE	Psychotherapy individual/family 45 minutes
90837AJHE	Psychotherapy individual/family 60 minutes
90846AJHE	Family or couples psychotherapy w/o patient present
90847AJHE	Family or couples psychotherapy with patient present
90853AJHE	Group psychotherapy 60 minutes with patients
90887AJHE	Consultation with Family

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Billing for LCSWs

CPT Code	Service Description
90791AJHF	Substance Use Disorder diagnostic evaluation
90832AJHF	SUD counseling individual/family 30 minutes
90834AJHF	SUD counseling individual/family 45 minutes
90837AJHF	SUD counseling individual/family 60 minutes
90846AJHF	Family SUD counseling w/o patient present
90847AJHF	Family SUD counseling with patient present
90853AJHF	Group SUD counseling 60 minutes with patients
90887AJHF	Consultation with Family

Dually-Eligible Members (Medicaid and Medicare)

LCSW providers are currently allowed to enroll with Medicare and bill for psychotherapy services. Effective July 1, 2024, for dually-enrolled members, Medicare remains the primary payer and NJ FamilyCare (Medicaid) continues to be responsible for Medicare copayments and deductibles only.

Clinical Supervision

- Licensed Social Workers (LSWs) working toward obtaining supervised clinical hours may provide diagnostic evaluations and psychotherapy services as allowed by their professional licensing board.
- The services must be supervised and provided as per the standards of the Board of Social Work Examiners.
- To be billable, the supervising clinician, or the agency that employs them, must be enrolled as a NJFC provider.
- The supervising provider/clinician overseeing the member's treatment plan shall be listed as the rendering provider on any NJ FamilyCare claim.

Please note that this newsletter does not apply to Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

If there are any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact the Gainwell Technologies Provider Enrollment Unit at (609) 588-6036.

RETAIN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE