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Newsletter

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TO: Physicians, Psychologists, Advance Practice Nurses (APNs), Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Independent Clinics, Hospitals and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) - **For Action**

SUBJECT: Addition of Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) and Licensed Marriage and Family Counselors (LMFTs) as NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid (NJFC) Billing and/or Servicing Providers

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: To allow LPCs and LMFTs to serve as billing and/or servicing providers within NJ FamilyCare fee-for-service (FFS). 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 LPCs and LMFTs as eligible provider types will increase the pool of available providers capable of meeting both the mental health and substance use needs of our NJ FamilyCare members, resulting in improved member access to services.

ACTIONS: NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid (NJFC) will now reimburse NJFC-enrolled LPCs and LMFTs for psychotherapy and counseling services provided either independently or as part of a group practice. MCOs are expected to reimburse LPCs and LMFTs for the same services. **Please note that providers cannot bill for services provided before their enrollment date.**

- LPCs and LMFTs 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".

- LPCs and LMFTs 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 or 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.
- LPCs or LMFTs 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 referenced above. The group must submit a new group application listing the LPCs or LMFTs 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.
- Services provided by LPCs and LMFTs practicing independently or as part of a group practice must be billed with the HEHH or HFHH modifier for mental health therapy/SUD counseling.
- Services provided by LPCs or LMFTs 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.
- **Note that the billing codes/modifier combinations in this Newsletter do not apply to psychotherapy and substance abuse counseling services provided by LPCs or LMFTs working in outpatient hospital settings or FQHCs. FQHC providers can refer to the March 2025 FQHC billing Alert describing new FQHC billing procedures for LPCs and LMFTs. Outpatient hospitals may continue current billing practices.**

Mental Health Billing for LPCs and LMFTs

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

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Billing for LPCs and LMFTs

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

For Dually-Eligible Members (Medicaid and Medicare): LPC and LMFT 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 Associate Counselors (LACs) or Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFTs) 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 Professional Counselor Examiners Committee or the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners.
- To be billable, the supervising clinician, or the agency that employs them, must be enrolled as a NJ FamilyCare provider.
- The supervising clinician overseeing the member's treatment plan shall be listed as the rendering provider on any NJ FamilyCare claim.

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

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