

CMS Final Rule for CY24 – Behavioral Health Changes Effective 1/1/2024

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023) has established a new Medicare benefit category for MFT and MHC services furnished by and directly billed by MFTs and MHCs. Payment for MFT and MHC services under Part B of the Medicare program will begin January 1, 2024. These provider specialties are not Medicare covered providers today and not allowed to bill for Medicare services directly.

Marriage and Family Therapists & Mental Health Counselors:

1. Marriage and family therapist (MFT) taxonomy code 106H00000X
2. Mental health counselor (MHC) taxonomy code 101YM0800X

Enroll in Medicare now. Starting for dates of service January 1, 2024, MFTs and MHCs can bill independently for services furnished for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses.

Find out how to [become a Medicare provider](#), and take these steps to enroll.

Psychotherapy for Crisis

Medicare pays for psychotherapy for crisis (currently billed using CPT codes 90839 and 90840). These services help reduce a patient's mental health crisis through an urgent assessment and history of a crisis state, a mental status exam, and a disposition (or what happens next for the patient). Psychotherapy for crisis services is appropriate for patients in high distress with life-threatening, complex problems that require immediate attention.

- Effective January 1, 2024: CMS establishes new HCPCS codes for psychotherapy for crisis services (HCPCS codes G0017 and G0018) that are furnished in an applicable site of service (any place of service at which the non-facility rate for psychotherapy for crisis services applies, other than the office setting).
 - Additional information can be viewed by accessing the [Psychotherapy for Crisis | CMS](#).

Intensive Outpatient Programming (IOP)

IOP is a new benefit that will be a standard Medicare offering effective January 1, 2024. An IOP is a distinct and organized outpatient program of psychiatric services provided for individuals who have an acute mental illness or substance use disorder, consisting of a specified group of behavioral health services paid on a per diem basis under the OPSS or other applicable payment system when furnished in hospital outpatient departments, CMHCs, FQHCs, and RHCs

Important Reference Links:

- CMS Press Release: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/marriage-and-family-therapists-and-mental-health-counselors-faq-09052023.pdf>
- CMS BH FAQ's: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/marriage-and-family-therapists-and-mental-health-counselors-faq-09052023.pdf>
- View fact sheet on Final Rule: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2024-medicare-advantage-and-part-d-final-rule-cms-4201-f>

Thank you for serving Molina members!