FAQs: PLPCs and Working with LA Medicaid

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Who can bill Medicaid insurance (added by WQD)

Chp 56 Behavioral Health Service Providers, LDH establishes the licensing standards for behavioral health services (BHS) in Louisiana. Certain entities are exempt from the licensure requirement

§5601 Introduction

E. The following entities shall be exempt from the licensure requirements for BHS Providers

9. an individual licensed mental health professional (LMHP) whether incorporated or unincorporated, or a group practice of LMHPs, providing services under the auspices and pursuant to the scope of the individual’s license or group’s license

So a licensed provider or a provider employed with a group (also) licensed can provide BHS services to Medicaid clients. They use professional billing codes 90000 codes.

Common CPT codes for Psychological Services:

https://psychcentral.com/lib/cpt-codes-for-psychology-services/

Guide to Mental Health & CPT Codes:

https://therathink.com/definitive-guide-to-mental-health-cpt-codes/

Can PLPCs bill private insurance for mental/behavioral health services?

Not at this time.

Can a PLPC bill insurance under another provider’s license( added by WQD)?

No

https://thriveworks.com/blog/can-an-intern-counselor-bill-insurance-under-another-providers-license/

Can PLPCs bill Medicaid for mental/behavioral health services?

Yes, as an employee of a licensed BHS Provider

LDH has established the licensing standards for behavioral health services in Louisiana.

§5601 Introduction:

LDH can license the following providers:

1. Substance abuse/addiction treatment facilities
2. Mental health clinics
3. Any other entity that meets the definition of a BHS provider

There are several different BHS organization types where a PLPC can work.

One example of a BHS licensed organization/provider is called a Mental Health Rehabilitation (MHR) pg.

324 §5603 Definitions
- an outpatient healthcare program provider of any psychosocial rehabilitation (PSR), crisis intervention (CI), and/or community psychiatric support and treatment (CPST) services that promotes the restoration of community functioning and well-being of an individual diagnosed with a mental health or emotional disorder. The MHR provider utilizes evidenced based supports and interventions designed to improve individual and community outcomes.

§5643: LDH mandates specific staff for all licensed BHS facilities:
A medical director
An administrator
A Licensed Mental Health Professional/Clinical Director
Unlicensed Professionals (UP) (p. 344)

PLPCs fall in the UP category

UP’s roles are to meet the need of the clients. The UP shall:
  i.  Provide direct care to clients and may serve as primary counselor to specified caseload under clinical supervision
  ii. Serve as resource person for other professionals and paraprofessionals in their specific area of expertise
  iii. Attend and participate in individual care conferences, treatment planning, and discharge planning
  iv. Function as the client’s advocate in all treatment decisions affecting the clients, and
  v. Prepare and write notes or other documents related to recovery (e.g. assessment, progress notes, treatment plans, etc).

What is the agency responsible for handling Medicaid claims?
Organizations submit claims for compensation directly to the LA Bayou Health Medicaid Plans they are credentialed with.

What are the provider requirements for billing Medicaid as a PLPC?
That depends largely on the type of contract established with the LA Bayou Health Medicaid Plans and type of service the organization provides- one example is a MHR. LDH licenses several types of programs and outlines the requirements for each program to provide the service.

What types of services can PLPCs bill for under Medicaid?
Again, that depends largely on the type of contract and type of service the organization provides- one example is a MHR. A PLPC employed with a MHR can bill CPST, PSR, and CI services. LDH licenses several types of programs

Who can PLPCs contact with questions regarding billing concerns?
A perspective employer can explain/articulate the services that a UP or PLPC can provide within their organization- LDH will refer the individual to the health plans, and a health plan will not communicate with an individual they are not contracted with

Where can additional information be located regarding Behavioral Health Managed Care in Louisiana be found?
A perspective employer is best equipped to answer questions as it relates to UP/PLPC Medicaid billing. Additional information about LA Behavioral Health Managed Care can be found at ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/subhome/18