



**State of Connecticut
Department of Social Services
Medical Care Administration
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5033**

**Policy Transmittal 2005-26
December 28, 2005**

PB 2005-79

Contact: Teddi Leslie Creel
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael P. Starkowski', written over a horizontal line.

Michael P. Starkowski
Deputy Commissioner

January 01, 2006
Effective Date

TO: Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, Freestanding Mental Health Clinics, School Based Health Centers, Alcohol and Drug Centers, Methadone Clinics, Home Health Agencies, Psychiatrists, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, License Marital and Family Therapists, Licensed Professional Counselors, and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors, HUSKY Managed Care Organizations

SUBJECT: Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Rates and Fees Schedules

The purpose of this policy transmittal is to inform Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, Mental Health Clinics, School Based Health Centers, Alcohol and Drug Centers, Methadone Maintenance Clinics, Home Health Agencies, Independent Practitioners, and Managed Care Organizations about policies under the new Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP) pertaining to eligibility, authorization, fee schedule, and claims.

Eligibility

Providers should verify eligibility and bill for services using the DSS issued client ID number. This is the ID number listed on a HUSKY A or HUSKY B client's Connect Card or "gray card." All HUSKY A and B members have been issued a ConnectCard or client ID. If a client does not have his or her Connect Card, you should ask the client for his or her client ID or use other information to verify eligibility. For more information on how to verify client eligibility, please see Provider Bulletin PB2005-76.

The HUSKY member cards issued by the HUSKY MCOs may use a different ID number than the DSS client ID and, as such, should not be used for eligibility verification or billing for CT BHP covered services.

Authorization/Registration

The CT BHP will require authorization or registration for most CT BHP covered services. Authorization involves a clinical review and determination of medical necessity and appropriateness of a requested service by the CT BHP ASO. Registration involves notification of the CT BHP ASO of the initiation of a behavioral health service when no clinical review is required.

Authorization requirements differ from those requirements under unmanaged Medicaid fee for service or what is sometimes referred to as “straight Title XIX.” The CT BHP will require prior authorization for all or most intensive services including all inpatient psychiatric and detoxification services, observation beds, DCF funded residential and group home services, partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient, extended day treatment, home health agency services, and most of the various home-based psychiatric services.

A number of other services will require registration. These services include, but may not be limited to, outpatient therapy, crisis stabilization, methadone services, ambulatory detoxification, and family support teams. Certain other services such as inpatient professional services or developmental testing may be billable without authorization or registration.

Note well: No authorization or registration will be required for any new or continuing CT BHP covered services during the transitional courtesy period, which begins January 1, 2006. During this period, services that were authorized prior to January 1, 2006 will not require reauthorization or registration.

During the transitional courtesy period, providers may bill EDS directly for services without authorization or registration. Authorization and registration requirements will be phased in on a schedule to be determined. Providers will be notified in advance of the schedule for implementing authorizations and registrations. The schedule will also be posted at www.CTBHP.com.

The CT BHP Authorization Schedule provides a complete list of covered services by provider type and authorization and registration requirements for each service. The CT BHP Authorization Schedule may be downloaded from the CT BHP web site at www.CTBHP.com.

Claims

Claims for CT BHP covered services will be paid by Electronic Data Systems (EDS) with several exceptions. Claims for residential treatment centers and some group home services funded by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will continue to be paid by DCF in accordance with current policies and procedures. Crisis residential, certain group homes, and care coordination services are grant funded and are not eligible for fee-for-service reimbursement under CT BHP. The CT BHP Authorization Schedule indicates which services are payable by EDS.

Fee schedules

The new BHP fee schedule is effective with the dates of service January 1, 2006 and forward and is consistent with the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS). The BHP Fee Schedule is not attached to this transmittal but can be accessed and downloaded by going to the CT Medical Assistance Program Web Site: www.ctmedicalprogram.com. From this web page go to “Publications,” then to “Fee Schedules,” then to “Behavioral Health Partnership Fee Schedule.” The first fee schedule that appears is for nurse practitioners. Click on the “Bookmark” tab on the left of the fee schedule and select the specific schedule for your practice type.

Behavioral health services that will eventually require authorization or registration are identified in the provider fee schedule with an asterisk (*). However, providers should refer to the CT BHP Authorization Schedule at www.CTBHP.com for more detailed information.

Additionally, provider-specific rates (PSR) apply to certain services. Letters informing providers of those rates will be sent under separate cover by DSS.

Modifiers

The following providers must bill using modifiers in accordance with the following table:

Provider type/specialty	Modifier
Advanced Practice Registered Nurses	SA
License Clinical Social Workers	AJ
Licensed Marital and Family Therapists	HO
Licensed Professional Counselors	HO
Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors	HO
School Based Health Centers	UB
MH Clinics when billing for Intensive In-Home Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services (IICAPS)	HK

Billing Questions

For questions about billing or if further assistance is needed to access the fee schedules on the EDS web site, contact the EDS Provider Assistance Center, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at:

In state toll free.....800-842-8440 or
Out of state or in the local New Britain, CT area....860-832-9259

Posting Instructions: Policy transmittals and fee schedules can also be downloaded from EDS Web site at www.ctmedicalprogram.com.

Distribution: This policy transmittal is being distributed to holders of the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Provider Manual by Electronic Data Systems. Managed

Care Organizations are requested to send this information to their network providers and subcontractors.

Responsible Unit: DSS, Medical Care Administration, Policy and Regulations, Teddi Leslie Creel, Medical Policy Consultant at 860-424-5393.

Date Issued: December 2005