
WISCONSIN MEDICAID UPDATE

FEBRUARY 18, 1997

UPDATE 97-07

TO:

County Departments of:

Community Programs

Human Services

County Mental Health Coordinators

Crisis Intervention Providers

New Mental Health Crisis Intervention Benefit

Biennial budget adds new benefit

Provisions of 1995 Wisconsin Act 27, the biennial budget, authorized mental health crisis intervention (MHCI) as a new Medicaid benefit. Wisconsin Medicaid may pay only county or tribal agencies to provide MHCI services (Section 49.45 (41), Wis. Stats.).

County or tribal agencies, or the agencies they contract with to actually provide MHCI services, must be certified under HFS 34, Wis. Admin. Code, Department of Health and Family Services.

HFS 34, Wis. Admin. Code, is the newly created emergency mental health service program standards. (The Division of Supportive Living certifies agencies under HFS 34, Wis. Admin. Code.)

MHCI helps recipients during a mental health crisis

MHCI programs provide a variety of services to recipients experiencing a mental health crisis. The programs are designed to:

- Relieve the recipient's immediate distress.
- Reduce the risk of escalation and risk of physical harm to the recipient or others.

- Provide evaluation, information, and referral to the recipient and others involved with the recipient.
- Coordinate the involvement of other resources.
- Resolve family crises to prevent out-of-home placement of children where appropriate.
- Assist the recipient to make the transition to the least restrictive level of care.

Providers must be separately certified for the MHCI benefit

Wisconsin Medicaid will only reimburse providers if they have separate Medicaid certification for MHCI services. The county or tribal agency, and all agencies it contracts with to provide the MHCI service, must have separate Medicaid MHCI certification. MHCI providers may not use provider certification numbers used for other services to bill Wisconsin Medicaid for MHCI services.

Information for county or tribal agencies

1. To receive Medicaid reimbursement for MHCI services, county or tribal agencies must obtain Medicaid certification for billing purposes, even if the county or tribal agency is not a direct provider of MHCI services.

- Upon Medicaid certification, the county or tribal agency will receive a “Medicaid billing number.”
 - The Medicaid billing number indicates that the entity is Medicaid-certified and is responsible to ensure that all Medicaid requirements are met when services are provided.
 - Wisconsin Medicaid sends all payments to the entity that has the Medicaid billing number.
 - When billing for MHCI services, providers must enter the county or tribal “billing number” in element 33 of the HCFA 1500 claim form.
2. County or tribal agencies that actually provide the MHCI service must obtain HFS 34 certification *and* Medicaid certification.
- For Medicaid certification, the county or tribal agency must be certified under HFS 34, Wis. Admin. Code.
 - Upon Medicaid certification, in addition to the Medicaid billing number, you will also receive a “Medicaid performing provider number.”
 - The Medicaid performing provider number indicates that the entity is Medicaid-certified and HFS 34-certified.
 - When billing for MHCI services, providers must enter the performing provider number in element 24 K of the HCFA 1500 claim form.
- The agency must obtain approval from the county or tribal agency in order to submit their Medicaid certification. The county or tribal agency indicates approval by signing the Medicaid provider agreement.
 - Upon Medicaid certification, the agency will receive a “performing provider number” only. The Medicaid performing provider number indicates that the entity is Medicaid-certified and HFS 34-certified.
 - The agency needs to discuss billing procedures with the county or tribal agency.
 - Wisconsin Medicaid *never* uses the performing provider number to send Medicaid payments. Wisconsin Medicaid sends all payments to the county or tribal agency that has the “Medicaid billing number” on the claim form. Providers must list the county or tribal agency’s billing number on the claim form.

Information for agencies contracting with a county or tribal agency

Agencies contracting with a county or tribal agency to actually provide the MHCI service must obtain HFS 34 certification *and* Medicaid certification.

Applying for Medicaid certification

To become Medicaid-certified for MHCI services, ask for a certification packet by writing or calling:

EDS
 ATTN: PROVIDER MAINTENANCE
 6406 BRIDGE ROAD
 MADISON WI 53784-0006
 (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883

Wisconsin Medicaid may backdate provider’s certification date

Wisconsin Medicaid may backdate the certification effective date to the date of a provider’s HFS 34 certification date if *all* of the following occur:

1. The provider who actually provides the MHCI service is already certified by the

Division of Supportive Living (DSL), or is in the process of being certified, under HFS 34, Wis. Admin. Code.

2. The provider requests Medicaid certification materials no later than thirty days following the mailing date of this Update.
3. The provider requests that EDS backdate the Medicaid certification effective date.
4. The provider returns the properly completed materials to EDS within thirty days of the date that the provider requested the Medicaid certification materials.

Billing information

Wisconsin Medicaid will send complete billing information to certified MHCI providers.

Reimbursement for MHCI services

Wisconsin Medicaid pays only the federal share

Counties or tribes will receive only the federal share (currently 59 percent) of the reimbursement rate from Wisconsin Medicaid.

Counties or tribes must provide the local matching share

Counties or tribes must provide the local matching share (currently 41 percent), as specified in Section 49.45 (41), Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Medicaid pays only the county or tribe for MHCI services

Wisconsin Medicaid pays only the county or tribe for MHCI services. If a county or tribe contracts with an agency for MHCI services, the county or tribe pays that agency according to the terms of its contract with that agency.

Wisconsin Medicaid will establish reimbursement rates

Wisconsin Medicaid will establish interim reimbursement rates for MHCI services.

These rates will apply to all certified MHCI providers.

Later, Wisconsin Medicaid will develop provider-specific rates. Counties or tribes certified as MHCI billing providers will receive cost reports which will serve as Wisconsin Medicaid's basis for establishing each county's cost to provide services. If the county's or tribe's provider-specific rate exceeds the interim rate, the county or tribe will receive a lump sum payment covering the difference. This process will occur later as Wisconsin Medicaid implements the new benefit.

If you have questions

- If you have questions about the certification information in this Update, contact:

EDS
(800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883

- If you have additional questions about the information in this Update, contact:

SHEL GROSS
DIVISION OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING
ROOM 250
P O BOX 309
MADISON WI 53701
(608) 266-8473

- If you have questions about DSL certification or HFS 34, Wis. Admin. Code, contact:

DAN CROSSMAN
DIVISION OF SUPPORTIVE LIVING
BUREAU OF QUALITY ASSURANCE
PROGRAM CERTIFICATION UNIT
P O BOX 7851
MADISON WI 53707-7851
(608) 266-0120

POH 1548