

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

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I. ISSUE

Mental Health Counselors

II. POLICY

A. **Provider Certification.** A mental health counselor may provide covered mental health services upon the referral and under the supervision of a physician. The mental health counselor must meet the following criteria:

1. A master's degree in mental health counseling or allied mental health field from a regionally accredited institution; and

2. Two years of post-master's experience which includes 3,000 hours of clinical work and 100 hours of face-to-face supervision; and

3. Licensure or certification as a mental health counselor.

a. If licensure/certification is offered by the jurisdiction in which the provider is practicing, it is required in all cases, even if the jurisdiction offers it on an optional basis. Contractors must verify licensure/certification rules for jurisdictions not included below. The following jurisdictions provide licensure or certification for mental health counselors:

Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Idaho
Illinois
Iowa
Kansas

Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

or

b. In jurisdictions that do not offer licensure, the mental health counselor must be (or must meet all of the requirements to become) a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) as determined by the Clinical Academy of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). Certification can be verified by checking the NBCC's Register of Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselors or by calling NBCC at (910) 547-0607. Acceptable proof that the mental health counselor meets all the requirements to become a CCMHC is a letter (or other written documentation) from the Clinical Academy of the NBCC stating that the provider meets the requirements to be certified by the NBCC as a CCMHC.

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