

CERTIFIED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

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I. ISSUE

Certified Clinical Social Workers.

II. POLICY

A. A certified clinical social worker may provide covered services independent of physician referral and supervision when practicing within the scope of his or her license. The clinical social worker must meet the following criteria:

1. Is licensed or certified as a clinical social worker by the jurisdiction where practicing; or, if the jurisdiction does not provide for licensure or certification of clinical social workers, is certified by a national professional organization offering certification of clinical social workers; and

2. Has at least a master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; and

3. Has had a minimum of two years or three thousand hours of post-master's degree supervised clinical social work practice under the supervision of a master's level social worker in an appropriate clinical setting, as determined by the contractor.

NOTE: Patients who have organic medical problems must receive appropriate concurrent management by a physician.

B. Mental health services provided by clinical social workers are subject to the limitations on psychiatric procedures.

C. All states, with the exception of New Jersey, Indiana and Wisconsin, now offer certification or licensure for social workers. To be authorized under TRICARE/CHAMPUS, the social worker must be licensed or certified at the Masters' level. Licensure/certification at the BA or BSW level is not acceptable. For providers in New Jersey, Indiana and Wisconsin, the ACSW level is required. That level of membership can be verified by contacting the membership validation office at the National Association of Social Workers at (301) 565-0333.

The Diplomate status granted by the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work is also recognized.

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