

## MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

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### I. ISSUE

Mental Health Counselor.

### 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.

b. In jurisdictions that do not offer licensure as a mental health counselor, the provider must be eligible for full clinical membership in the American Mental Health Counselor Association (AMHCA); or, be certified (or eligible for certification) as a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) by the Clinical Academy of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). Information regarding the AMHCA may be found at [www.amhca.org](http://www.amhca.org). Information regarding the NBCC may be found at [www.nbcc.org](http://www.nbcc.org).

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