

Chapter 11

Section 3.7

Certified Psychiatric Nurse Specialist (CPNS)

Issue Date: December 5, 1984

Authority: [32 CFR 199.6\(c\)\(3\)\(iii\)\(G\)](#)

1.0 ISSUE

Certified Psychiatric Nurse Specialist (CPNS).

2.0 POLICY

2.1 A CPNS may provide covered care independent of physician referral and supervision. For purposes of TRICARE, a CPNS is an individual who:

2.1.1 Is a licensed, registered nurse; and

2.1.2 Has at least a master's degree in nursing with a specialization in psychiatric and mental health nursing; and

2.1.3 Has had at least two years of post-master's degree practice in the field of psychiatric and mental health nursing, including an average of eight hours of direct patient contact per week; or

2.1.4 Is certified by the American Nurses Association through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the professional body that meets the requirement of [32 CFR 199.6\(c\)\(3\)\(iii\)\(G\)\(4\)](#) for a CPNS to be listed in a TRICARE-recognized, professionally sanctioned listing of clinical specialists in psychiatric mental health nursing.

The following ANCC certifications meet this requirement:

- Adult or Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- Child/ Adolescent- Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (NP)

2.2 Notwithstanding the specific certifications outlined in [paragraph 2.1.4](#), all such providers shall all be referred to as CPNS for purposes of TRICARE coverage and reimbursement.

2.3 Claims for mental health services provided by a CPNS are subject to the limitations on psychiatric procedures.

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