



July 2007

ATTENTION PROVIDERS

CMS 1500
07-007

ATTENTION WYOMING COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CENTERS

INFORMATION ON NEW EQUALITYCARE PEER SPECIALIST SERVICES

Effective August 1, 2007, EqualityCare will reimburse Peer Specialist services provided in a Community Mental Health Center or Substance Abuse Center.

What is a Peer Specialist?

A person who is or has been a recipient of mental health services for severe and persistent mental illness holds the position of a Peer Specialist. Because of their life experience with mental illness and mental health services and demonstration of self-sufficiency, Peer Specialists provide expertise that professional training cannot replicate. Peer Specialists are fully integrated team members who provide highly individualized services in the community and promote recipient self-determination and decision-making. Peer Specialists also provide essential expertise and consultation to the entire team to promote a culture in which each recipient's point of view and preferences are recognized, understood, respected, and integrated into treatment, rehabilitation, and community self-help activities. Peer Specialists, having experienced a severe mental illness, may assist the other members of the team in understanding the recipient's perspective and subjective experience. Peer Specialists may also include persons who have been diagnosed with and received services for substance abuse dependency.

EqualityCare covers certified Peer Specialist contact for the purpose of implementing the portion of the enrolled recipient's treatment plan that promotes the recipient to direct their own recovery and advocacy process; to teach and support the acquisition and exercise of skills needed for management of symptoms; and for utilization of resources within the community. Services are provided from a perspective of an individual who has consumer experience with the mental health and/or substance abuse system to assist the enrolled recipient with meeting the treatment plan.

Staff Qualifications

Any combination of training and experience which would enable the applicant to obtain the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities for this position which may include the following:

- Current or former recipient of mental health services which may include co-occurring substance abuse treatment
- Willingness to utilize a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) in daily life
- Ability to use or learn computer software (Microsoft Word, Excel, and email programs)
- Hold a valid Wyoming driver's license (good driving record)



- Able to work some weekend/evening hours
- Work may include visits to consumer homes
- Some in-state travel may be required
- Applicants should have personal attributes suited to working in a team environment and providing services to persons with severe and persistent mental illnesses
- Able to advocate for the consumer; adept in teaching coping/life skills; comfortable sharing own experiences in appropriate ways; ability to keep boundaries and to form appropriate professional relationships with clients; and perform a wide variety of tasks to assist consumer's wellness
- Positive attitude
- Knowledge of community resources, coping skills, and advocacy techniques
- Knowledge of recovery-oriented treatment programs
- Must be empathetic
- Must maintain patient confidentiality in accordance with Center policy

Billing Codes

The following codes may be used to bill for Peer Specialist services:

Community Mental Health Centers - H2014 + HH Modifier - Skills training and development, per 15 minutes - \$8.71

Substance Abuse Centers - H2015 + HH Modifier - Comprehensive Community Support Services, per 15 minutes - \$8.71

These codes will be billed on the CMS 1500 claim form using the Community Mental Health Center or Substance Abuse Center provider number.

Please refer to the EqualityCare website at wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com for billing guidelines, covered services, fee schedules, etc.

Documentation Requirements

The Provider Agreement requires that the clinical records fully disclose the extent of treatment services provided to EqualityCare recipients. The following elements are a clarification of EqualityCare policy regarding documentation for medical records:

- The record shall be typed or legibly written.
- The record shall identify the recipient on each page.
- Entries shall be signed and dated by the qualified staff member providing service.
- The record shall contain a preliminary working diagnosis and the elements of a history and mental status examination upon which the diagnosis is based.
- All services, as well as the treatment plan, shall be entered in the record.
- The record shall indicate the observed mental health/substance abuse therapeutic condition of the recipient, any change in diagnosis or treatment, and recipient's response to treatment. Progress notes shall be written for every contact billed to EqualityCare.

- The record must include a valid consent for treatment signed by the recipient or guardian.


All documentation, including required signatures, must be completed before or at the time the provider submits a claim to EqualityCare.

For more information regarding qualifications, duties, and responsibilities, please visit the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division website at <http://www.health.wyo.gov/MHSA>.

For billing and covered services information, please contact the ACS Provider Relations Unit at 1-800-251-1268.

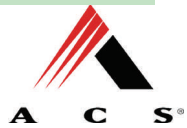


Wyoming Department of Health
Public Health Insurance Program



Pharmacy
Group
6530

Important Changes! Please read!



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We're on the Web!

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