



ISSUE DATE

March 30, 2021

EFFECTIVE DATE:

April 30, 2021

NUMBER:

OMHSAS-21-04

SUBJECT:

Procedure for Providing a Specialized Behavioral Health Treatment Program in Community Residential Rehabilitation Host Home Settings

BY:

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Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to providers of Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR) services that provide behavioral health treatment services in host homes to children and youth under 18 years of age in the Medical Assistance (MA) Fee-for-Service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Bulletin is to inform providers of the procedures to provide a specialized behavioral health treatment program to children and youth in the CRR host home setting.

BACKGROUND:

CRR services, including services provided in a host home setting for children and youth under the age of 18, were established by 55 Pa. Code Chapter 5310. A host home is a private residence of a family, other than the home of the child's or youth's parents, which provides a structured living arrangement for one to three children or youth. Medical Assistance Bulletin 1153-95-01, Accessing Outpatient Wraparound Mental Health Services Not Currently Included on the Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule for Eligible Children Under 21 Years of Age, informed providers licensed to provide outpatient mental health services, partial hospitalization services or family-based mental health services of the requirements and procedures necessary to receive MA payment for medically necessary behavioral health rehabilitation services (BHRS) not on the MA Program Fee Schedule. Pursuant to Medical Assistance Bulletin 1153-95-01, CRR providers who provided services in a host home setting and had an outpatient mental health services, partial hospitalization services or family-based mental health services license could receive MA payment for specialized BHRS they were providing in the CRR host home setting.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105. E-Mail: RA-PWIBHS@pa.gov

On October 19, 2019, the Department promulgated 55 Pa. Code Chapters 1155 and 5240, which codified the minimum standards for licensing and MA payment conditions for agencies that deliver Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) to children, youth, and young adults under 21 years of age with mental, emotional and behavioral health needs. The regulations replaced the requirements for BHRS previously set forth in bulletins issued by the Department. Because IBHS replaced BHRS, BHRS will not be compensable after January 17, 2021.

Specialized behavioral health treatment provided in the CRR host home setting are not considered IBHS. Because the behavioral health treatment component provided in a CRR host home setting cannot be provided through IBHS, the Department is issuing procedures for how CRR providers who provide services in a host home setting can continue to provide specialized behavioral health treatment.

DISCUSSION:

Many children and youth who receive services in a host home have unique needs which require specialized treatment programs beyond the host home requirements established by 55 Pa. Code Chapter 5310. After obtaining stakeholder feedback, the Department is issuing procedures for host home providers who wish to provide a specialized behavioral health treatment program in a host home setting.

Not every child or youth who resides in a host home or foster home requires a specialized behavioral health treatment program. Children and youth residing in a host home or foster home continue to have access to the full range of behavioral health services available to all children and youth and are not required to receive behavioral health treatment in a host home setting. Behavioral health services that may be more appropriate include, but are not limited to, outpatient mental health services, family-based mental health services, partial hospitalization services, and IBHS.

PROCEDURE:

Existing providers: Providers who are currently approved to provide BHRS in a host home setting shall complete the following steps by the effective date of this bulletin:

- Submit an updated service description consistent with Attachment A to your regional Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) field office for approval.
- Once the service description is approved, the approval letter will be added to your existing CRR Host Home (52/523) enrollment file.

New providers: Entities that are not currently licensed as a CRR provider and want to provide specialized behavioral health treatment in the host home setting shall complete the following steps:

- Submit a service description consistent with Attachment A to your regional OMHSAS field office for approval.
- Submit an application for a CRR License. Instructions regarding the licensing process can be found at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Clearances-and-Licensing/Pages/App-for-License.aspx>.
- After the service description has been approved and the entity has received a CRR license, the entity should submit an application to enroll in the MA Program. The online enrollment application is available on the Department's website at <https://provider.enrollment.dpw.state.pa.us>. The entity will need to separately enroll each licensed service location in the MA Program. Enrollment questions should be directed to the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP). Please use the following contact information: OMAP Inquiry Line 1-800-537-8862 or e-mail at RA-ProvApp@pa.gov.
- Submit the specialized behavioral health treatment program's detailed budget for a twelve-month period to your regional OMHSAS field office. Upon the issuance of a rate letter, the rate will be added to the enrollment file.

Procedure code: Specialized behavioral health treatment in a host home setting should be billed using procedure code H0019.

Continuity of service: Due to the transition from BHRS, OMHSAS is outlining existing requirements to ensure all CRR providers who provide services in a host home setting understand the eligibility requirements listed below for specialized behavioral health treatment services.

Provider eligibility for MA payment:

- Provider must have a current CRR host home license
- Provider must be enrolled in MA as a host home provider
- Provider must have an approved service description

Previously in addition to being licensed as a CRR, providers who served children and youth and provided specialized behavioral health treatment were required to have an outpatient mental health services, partial hospitalization services or family-based mental health services license. Providers are now only required to have a CRR license. Providers were also required to have a service description to obtain a CRR license and a separate service description for the specialized behavioral health treatment program in a host home setting. Providers may now have one service description that addresses both the requirements to obtain a CRR license and the specialized behavioral health treatment they will be providing.

A child or youth must meet the following to be eligible to receive specialized behavioral health treatment in a host home setting:

- Eligible for MA
- Under the age of 18
- Not be an emancipated minor
- Have a diagnosis of a behavioral health disorder that is included in the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

Prior authorization: Specialized behavioral health treatment in a host home setting continues to require prior authorization in the FFS delivery system. The instructions to request prior authorization are provided in Attachment B. Providers should contact the appropriate behavioral health managed care organization to determine what, if any, prior authorization requirements exist in the managed care delivery system.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Service Description Format

Attachment B: Fee-For-Service Prior Authorization Instructions

Attachment C: Contact List for OMHSAS's Regional Field Offices