

Licensed behavioral health center and behavioral health comprehensive center changes

Summary

UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. (UniCare) appreciates the compassion and dedication with which you care for your patients — our members. As part of our ongoing commitment to improve efficiency and make it easier to do business with us, we will be implementing the changes outlined in this bulletin.

Peer recovery certification changes

Beginning January 1, 2023, the Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) will require the West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction and Prevention Professionals (WVCBAPP) peer recovery certification as credentials for all peer recovery support specialist (PRSS) to be reimbursed for PRSS services.

For additional information, please go to

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Programs/WaiverPrograms/SUDWaiver/Pages/SUD-Forms.aspx>.

Who is eligible for reimbursement?

Only those individuals possessing the WVCBAPP's peer recovery certification on January 1, 2023, will be eligible for reimbursement.

The West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction and Prevention Professionals (WVCBAPP) certification requirements, applications, and manuals are accessible online at <https://www.wvcbapp.org/applications>.

Where can I find more information?

Additional information for PRSS services can be found in **Chapter 504 Substance Use Disorder Services** under *Section 504.15.1* at <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Pages/Chapter-504-Substance-Use-Disorder-Services.aspx>.

PRSS enrollment with UniCare

Effective January 1, 2023, UniCare will require all PRSS be certified for enrollment with UniCare.

A PRSS provides recovery support services (RSS), which are non-clinical services to assist individuals with recovery from alcohol or drug problems:

- A PRSS must be employed by a comprehensive mental health center or licensed behavioral health center as defined in **Chapter 64** of the *WV State Code*.
- Peer recovery support services may be provided to eligible individuals ages 18 years or older who have a substance use disorder or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, which are the focus of their recovery.
- Staff who provide PRSS services will be required to obtain a national provider identifier (NPI) number and be linked to your agency. The NPI number can be obtained by visiting the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System website at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/#/>.

How do I become a PRSS?

To become certified as a PRSS for Medicaid reimbursement, you must complete the BMS Peer Recovery Support Specialist webinar and pass the examination with an 80% or higher score. You must print out and enclose the certificate of successful completion with your *WV Peer Recovery Support Specialist Certification Application*.

The *WV Peer Recovery Support Specialist Certification Application* is included in **Chapter 504** and the BMS Peer Recovery Support Specialist webinar is located at <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Pages/Chapter-504-Substance-Use-Disorder-Services.aspx>.

Completed applications should be emailed to BMSSUDWaiver@wv.gov.

Once a PRSS has successfully completed WVCBAPP's peer recovery certification, the certificate must accompany a completed *UniCare Provider Enrollment Application Form* and submitted to your designated Provider Experience manager to initiate the credentialing and enrollment process. You can send the completed *UniCare Provider Enrollment Application Form* by email, or fax it to **877-833-5729**.

To access the *UniCare Provider Enrollment Application Form*, go to <https://www.provider.unicare.com/docs/gpp/WV-CAID-provider-application-form.pdf>.

Coding information for PRSS services:

- Procedure code: H0038
- Service unit: 15 minutes
- Service limits: 60 units per month
- Prior authorization: Required after 60 units per month limit is met
- Telehealth: Available

This service is not permitted in a group format.

UniCare credentialing policy

As a result of WVCHIP's provider credentialing requirements, and the PRSS credentialing effective on January 1, 2023 — to best serve our licensed behavioral health center and comprehensive mental health center provider partners efficiently through consistency — UniCare will require credentialing for enrollment of behavioral health practitioners for Medicaid. All claims will require the rendering provider NPI in block 24.j of the CMS-1500 claim format for claim dates of service beginning January 1, 2023.

If the individual rendering provider has not been enrolled with UniCare, or the rendering provider NPI is not billed, the claim will deny.

The UniCare corporate credentialing policy defines the practitioners who are required to credential as the following:

- Credentialing requirements apply to:
 - Practitioners who are licensed, certified, or registered by the state to practice independently (without direction or supervision).
 - Practitioners who have an independent relationship with the organization. An independent relationship exists when the organization directs its members to see a specific practitioner or group of practitioners, including all practitioners whom a member can select as primary care practitioners.
 - Practitioners who provide care to members under the organization's medical benefits.

- The criteria listed above apply to practitioners in the following settings:
 - Individual or group practices
 - Facilities

Who does UniCare credential?

UniCare credentials the following types of contracted healthcare practitioners/providers. The following list may not be all inclusive but covers most practitioner types and specialties:

- Medical doctors (MD) and doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO)
- Psychologists who are state certified or licensed and have doctoral or master's level training
- Clinical social workers who are state certified or state licensed and have master's level training
- Psychiatric nurse practitioners who are nationally or state certified or state licensed or behavioral nurse specialists with master's level training
- Other behavioral healthcare specialists who are licensed, certified, or registered by the state to practice independently
- Nurse practitioners and physician assistants

The following behavioral health practitioner types are not subject to professional conduct and competence review under the UniCare credentialing program, but they are subject to a certification requirement process, including verification of licensure by the applicable state licensing board to independently provide behavioral health services and/or compliance with regulatory or state/federal contract requirements for the provision of services:

- Certified behavioral analysts
- Certified addiction counselors
- Substance abuse practitioners
- PRSS

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, visit the *Contact Us* section at the bottom of our provider website (<https://provider.unicare.com>) for up-to-date contact information.



Email is the quickest and most direct way to receive important information from UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc.

To start receiving email from us (including some sent in lieu of fax or mail), submit your information using the QR code to the right or via our online form (unicare.ly/WVmp).

