



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth

Community Behavioral Health Center Bulletin 2

DATE: September 2024

TO: Community Behavioral Health Centers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Mike Levine, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: **Updates to Licensed Mental Health Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists Billing Procedures for Dually Eligible Members**

Medicare Certification of Licensed Mental Health Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists

Effective January 1, 2024, licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs) and licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs) may now independently enroll in Medicare and bill Medicare for services for the diagnosis and treatment of behavioral health conditions.

Accordingly, effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2024, community behavioral health centers (CBHCs) must first bill Medicare for these services per the third-party liability requirements (130 CMR 450.316-321) found at [130 CMR 450.000](#): *Administrative and Billing Regulations*.

The third-party billing exceptions in the *Community Behavioral Health Center Services Manual* in [Appendix D: Supplemental Instructions for TPL Exceptions](#) no longer apply to claims for services rendered by licensed mental health counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists. CBHCs submitting claims for non-certified clinicians, however, must still follow the supplemental instructions in [Appendix D](#).

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