

Chapter 11

Section 3.11

Mental Health Counselor

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1.0 ISSUE

Mental Health Counselor.

2.0 POLICY

2.1 Provider Certification. A mental health counselor may provide covered mental health services upon the referral and under the supervision of a physician. The mental health counselor must meet the following criteria:

2.1.1 A master's degree in mental health counseling or allied mental health field from a regionally accredited institution; and

2.1.2 Two years of post-master's experience which includes 3,000 hours of clinical work and 100 hours of face-to-face supervision; and

2.1.3 Licensure or certification as a mental health counselor.

2.1.3.1 If licensure/certification is offered by the jurisdiction in which the provider is practicing, it is required in all cases, even if the jurisdiction offers it on an optional basis.

2.1.3.2 In jurisdictions that do not offer licensure, the mental health counselor must be (or must meet all of the requirements to become) a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) as determined by the Clinical Academy of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). Certification can be verified by checking the NBCC's Register of Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselors via their web site at www.nbcc.org or by calling NBCC at (336) 547-0607. Acceptable proof that the mental health counselor meets all the requirements to become a CCMHC is a letter (or other written documentation) from the Clinical Academy of the NBCC stating that the provider meets the requirements to be certified by the NBCC as a CCMHC.

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