

State Medicaid Reimbursement For Peer Support Services

Currently, 39 states allow Medicaid billing for any type of peer support services. Of those states, 23 states allow peer support reimbursement for individuals with addiction and mental health disorders, 12 allow for mental health only, and four allow for addiction only. The first state to authorize Medicaid billing for peer support services was Georgia in 1999. The number of states funding peer services under Medicaid has increased rapidly from eight in 2008 to 39 today. If the state Medicaid programs requires that peer support services are covered under the Medicaid fee-for-service program than the Medicaid health plans must cover this service.

The term “peer supports” is defined as “the process of giving and receiving non-clinical assistance to achieve long-term recovery from severe psychiatric, traumatic or addiction challenges. This support is provided by peer supporters—people who have ‘lived experience’ and have been trained to assist others in initiating and maintaining long-term recovery and enhancing the quality of life for individuals and their families. Peer support services are inherently designed, developed, delivered, evaluated, and supervised by peers in long-term recovery.”¹ Evidence shows that peer staff providing conventional mental health services can be effective in engaging people into services and care. Peer support can also meet gaps in services between acute mental health services and structured interventions in the community.²

The most recent guidance published by the Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) in May 1, 2013, clarified peer support policy for states developing behavioral health models of care under Medicaid. Per SMDL #07-011, states have the option to offer peer support services as a component of a comprehensive mental health and substance use service delivery system.³ The guidance further states that activities can include, but are not limited to, developing formal and informal supports; serving as an advocate, mentor, or facilitator; and developing skills necessary to enhance behavioral or co-occurring disorders.

Peer support services, which meet the CMS standard of assisting individuals with recovery, vary widely by program and state. Service roles played by peer specialists can include:

1. Whole health and wellness coaches
2. Community treatment teams (e.g., Assertive Community Treatment teams)
3. Transition team members bridging consumers from hospitals to community
4. Data collection
5. Supported employment
6. Supported housing
7. System navigators
8. Insurance navigators
9. Recovery coaches

States have a handful of options for funding the reimbursement of peer support services under Medicaid, including:

1. The Medicaid state plan typically via the Medicaid rehabilitation option
2. 1915(i) home- and community-based state plan option waiver
3. 1915(b)(3) waiver, which uses costs savings to provide Medicaid services not included in the state plan
4. 1115 demonstration waivers
5. 1915(c) HCBS waivers

Additional reimbursement for peer support may be provided through non-Medicaid sources, such as grants and state behavioral health departments.

To qualify under these funding authorities for reimbursement for peer support services, CMS' guidance establishes four parameters for Medicaid recognition (and reimbursement) of peer support services:

1. Supervision: Supervision by a mental health professional (as defined by the state) (2007)
2. Care Coordination: Services are coordinated within the context of an individual's plan of care (2007)
3. Training and Credentialing: As defined by the state (2007 and reconfirmed in 2013)
4. Scope: In addition to mental health and addiction support, peer support services can include support to parents/legal guardians of Medicaid-eligible children (17 and younger) during the child's recovery process (2013)

State Reimbursement Of Peer Support Services, 2018 ⁴				
State	Reimbursement For Mental Health	Reimbursement For Addiction	Funding Authority	Notes
Alabama	No	No	N/A	
Alaska	No	No	N/A	State has a 1115 waiver pending with CMS that would provide peer support services for mental health and addiction.
Arizona	Yes	Yes	State plan	
Arkansas	No	No		
California	No	Yes	1115 waiver	Only available in counties that elect to participate in demonstration
Colorado	No	Yes	1915(b)	
Connecticut	No	Yes	1915(c)	
Delaware	Yes	Yes	1115	Only available through PROMISE program

State Reimbursement Of Peer Support Services, 2018 ⁴				
State	Reimbursement For Mental Health	Reimbursement For Addiction	Funding Authority	Notes
District of Columbia	No	No	N/A	
Florida	Yes	Yes	State Plan	State has a proposed 1115 waiver that would implement pilots to provide peer support to individuals with addiction. Currently peer support for addiction is covered under the county Medicaid match program.
Georgia	Yes	Yes	State plan	
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	State plan	
Idaho	No	No	N/A	Optum, the behavioral health organization, offers peer support as a value-add service, and does not receive Medicaid reimbursement
Illinois	Yes	No	State plan	Peer support specialists are qualified members of ACT teams, but state does not cover peer support services independently
Indiana	Yes	Yes	State plan and 1915(c)	
Iowa	Yes	Yes	1915(b)	Services only available to non-expansion population
Kansas	Yes	No	State plan	
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	State plan	
Louisiana	No	No	N/A	
Maine	Yes	Yes	State plan	Peer support specialists are qualified providers under the state's health home programs
Maryland	No	No	N/A	
Massachusetts	Yes	No	1115 waiver	
Michigan	Yes	Yes	1915(b)	
Minnesota	Yes	No	State plan	Proposing to cover for addiction as part of 1115 waiver
Mississippi	Yes	No	State plan	

State Reimbursement Of Peer Support Services, 2018 ⁴				
State	Reimbursement For Mental Health	Reimbursement For Addiction	Funding Authority	Notes
Missouri	Yes	No	State plan	Peer support specialists are qualified providers, but state does not cover peer support services independently
Montana	No	No	N/A	
Nebraska	Yes	No	State Plan	
Nevada	Yes	Yes	State plan	
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	State plan	
New Jersey	No	No	1115 waiver	Peer support will be added in July 2019
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	1115 waiver	Only available to managed care enrollees
New York	Yes	No	1115 waiver	Only available to individuals with SMI enrolled in Health Action and Recovery Plans (HARP)
North Carolina	Yes	No	State plan	Peer support specialists are qualified providers, but state does not cover peer support services independently
North Dakota	No	No	N/A	
Ohio	Yes	Yes	State plan	
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	State plan	
Oregon	Yes	Yes	State plan	
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	State plan	Mental health peer support is covered via state plan, for addiction treatment, peer support is an "in lieu" of service
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	1115 waiver	
Utah	Yes	Yes	State plan	
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	State plan	
South Dakota	No	No	N/A	
Tennessee	No	No	N/A	
Texas	Yes	No	State plan	Peer support specialists are qualified providers, but state does not cover peer support services independently
Vermont	Yes	Yes	1115 waiver	
Virginia	Yes	Yes	State plan	
Washington	Yes	No	State plan	

State Reimbursement Of Peer Support Services, 2018 ⁴				
State	Reimbursement For Mental Health	Reimbursement For Addiction	Funding Authority	Notes
West Virginia	No	Yes	1115 waiver	
Wisconsin	Yes	No	State plan	
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	State plan	

Reimbursement For Peer Support Services

Reimbursement for peer support services is primarily made to the organization employing the certified peer specialist, as opposed to the peer specialist as a distinct Medicaid clinical professional. When states reimburse for peer services, there are several procedure codes used for services provided by peer specialists. Codes used include:

- For general services:
 - H0038: Self-help/peer services, per 15 minutes
- For specific services:
 - H0039: Assertive community treatment, face-to-face, per 15 minutes
 - H0040: Assertive community treatment program, per diem
 - H0025: Behavioral health prevention education service (delivery of services with target population to affect knowledge, attitude and/or behavior)

Below is a sampling of maximum reimbursement rates for peer support services as delivered under Medicaid fee-for-service programs. Rates range as low as \$1.94 for 15 minutes of group therapy to \$24.36 for code H0038.

Selected State Fee-For-Service Reimbursement Rates For Peer Support Services ⁵			
State	Code	Description	Rate
Indiana	H0038 HW	Self-help/peer recovery services, per 15 minutes; funded by state mental health agency	\$8.55
Virginia	S9445	Peer support services - group, per 15 minutes	\$2.70
	T1012	Peer support services - individual, per 15 minutes	\$6.50
	H0025	Peer support services - group, per 15 minutes Mental health	\$2.70
	H0024	Peer support services - individual, per 15 minutes mental health	\$6.50
South Carolina	H0038 HW	Peer support services - group, per 15 minutes	\$2.62
	H0038	Peer support services - individual, per 15 minutes	\$6.56
	H0038	Peer Support Service Provided by DMH and DAODAS only	\$5.98
Oregon	G0177	Training and educational services related to the care and treatment of patient's disabling mental health problems per session (45 minutes or more)	\$18.11
	G0177	Training and educational services related to the care and treatment of patient's disabling mental health problems per session (45 minutes or more)	\$17.17
	H0039	Assertive community treatment, face-to-face, per 15 minutes.	\$26.20
	H0046	Home Based and Behavioral Habilitation 60 minutes. Modifier HW is used, along with HK, only when an individual has been approved for the HCBS 1915 (i) plan.	\$27.50
	H2014	Skills training and development, per 15 min	\$16.88
	H2023	Supported Employment, per 15 min	\$16.88
	H2023	Supported Education, per 15 min	\$16.88
	T1016	Case management, per 15 min	\$21.69

Selected State Fee-For-Service Reimbursement Rates For Peer Support Services ⁵			
State	Code	Description	Rate
	H0038	Self-help/peer services, per 15 min	\$15.00
Ohio	H0038 HQ	Self-help/peer services, group per 15 min	\$1.94
	H0038	Self-help/peer services, individual per 15 min	\$15.51
Georgia	H0038	peer supports, adult, Group, one hour, price dependent on practitioner level and settings	\$13.20- \$21.64
	H0038	peer supports, adult, Individual, 15 minutes, price dependent on practitioner level and settings	\$15.13- \$24.36
	H0025	Peer Support Whole Health & Wellness, 15 minutes	\$15.13- \$36.68
Nebraska	H0038 HE	Peer Support Services for Mental Health Per 15 minute increments	\$11.50
	H0038 HE/HQ	H0038 HE/HQ Peer Support Services for Mental Health Per 15 minute increments	\$7.91

As states look for more models that better help consumers managed behavioral health issues, it is likely that peer support will play an important role in these models.

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Glossary of terms. Accessed online March 11, 2018, at <https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/glossary#p>

² US National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. (2017, November 9). Development of a peer-supported, self-management intervention for people following mental health crisis. Accessed online March 11, 2018, at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5680762/>

³ US Department of Health and Human Services. (2013, May 1). Clarifying guidance on peer support services policy. Accessed online March 11, 2018, at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/downloads/clarifying-guidance-support-policy.pdf>

⁴ *OPEN MINDS* analysis of state plans, state plan amendments, and 1915(c), 1915(b), and 1115 demonstration waivers. For states where documentation was not clear, *OPEN MINDS* communicated via email with the state Medicaid departments.

⁵ Indiana Family & Social Services Administration. (2018, March 3). Indiana health coverage programs fee schedule. Accessed online March 11, 2018, at <http://provider.indianamedicaid.com/ihcp/Publications/MaxFee/reports/refw0401.txt>

Indiana Family & Social Services Administration. (2017, December 14). Medicaid rehabilitation option services. Accessed online March 11, 2018, at <http://provider.indianamedicaid.com/media/155553/medicaid%20rehabilitation%20option%20services.pdf>

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South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid. (2014, December 1). RBHS-DAODAS codes and rates. Accessed online March 11, 2018, at <https://www.scdhhs.gov/sites/default/files/Copy%20of%20RBHS-DAODAS%20Provider%20-%20Rates%20eff%2012-1-2014%20web%20file.pdf>

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Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. (2017, July 1). Medicaid services. Accessed online March 11, 2018, at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/471-000-532.pdf>