



PROVIDER ALERT

CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL WORK STATUTE

NOVEMBER 22, 2013

On October 1, 2013 new changes to the Social Work Statute, Maryland Health Occupations Title 19, Social Workers, became effective. All licensed social workers are responsible for understanding and complying with the new statutory changes regarding clinical practice and supervision requirements.

Although appropriately supervised clinical practice by a Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW) is allowed by the Board of Social Work, this Provider Alert is a reminder that the Public Mental Health System (PMHS) **does not** reimburse for services rendered by a LGSW under the direct supervision of a LCSW-C in private practice.

COMAR 10.21.25, Fee Schedule – Mental Health Services – Community-Based Programs and Individual Practitioners, contains all the billing regulations that apply to programs and individual practitioners. Specifically related to individual practitioners, Regulation .03B(11-1)(a & b) defines the individual practitioners who can be reimbursed by the PMHS:

- “(a) ‘Other mental health professional’ means an individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise legally authorized to *independently* provide the mental health services.
- (b) ‘Other mental health professional’ includes a:
 - (i) Licensed certified social worker – clinical” (LCSW-C)...

As is the current policy, Outpatient Mental Health Centers approved under COMAR 10.21.20, Community Mental Health Programs – Outpatient



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Mental Health Centers, are permitted to bill for appropriately authorized mental health services rendered by a LGSW, as long as the services are within the scope of practice and appropriately supervised, as defined and regulated by the Board of Social Work.