

# IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS BT202137 MAY 25, 2021

## Expanded scope of licensed behavioral health professionals to certify a mental health diagnosis

Effective July 1, 2021, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) will implement *Senate Enrolled Act 82*, to allow additional licensed behavioral health professionals who may certify a mental health diagnosis within a plan of treatment without the confirmation of a physician, psychiatrist or health services provider in psychology (HSPP).

Under the new legislation, a “mental health diagnosis” refers to the evaluation of mental, emotional, behavioral, and addictive disorders and conditions by a licensed behavioral health professional who:

- Uses accepted classifications, including the most current version of the following:
  - The American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)
  - The International Classification of Diseases (ICD)
- Complies with both of the following:
  - The education, training, experience and licensure requirements set forth in *Indiana Code IC 25-23.6-11-4*
  - The behavioral health professional’s scope of practice



As a result of this legislation, the behavioral health professionals listed in Table 1 are now authorized under Indiana Code to certify a mental health diagnosis within a patient’s treatment plan.

*Table 1 – Additional behavioral health professionals who may now certify a mental health diagnosis*

Provider description	Provider type	Specialty code
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)	11	618
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)	11	619
Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC)	11	620
Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor (LCAC)	11	621

***Licensed psychologists and licensed independent practice school psychologists are still required to have an eligible practitioner certify a diagnosis and supervise the plan of treatment.***

### Physical medical care

The term “mental health diagnosis” does not include a physical diagnosis.

Therefore, individuals licensed under this new legislation have additional responsibilities if they perform an evaluation and determine that either of the following apply:

- The patient has not seen a physician, advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant within 12 months.
- The patient may have a physical condition that requires medical attention.

If either one of the above applies to the patient, then the behavioral health professional performing the evaluation and/or certifying the mental health diagnosis must coordinate patient care appropriately to ensure the individual receives physical medical care.



### Billing and PA

As published previously in *IHCP Bulletins* [BT2020108](#) and [BT201943](#), these licensed behavioral health professionals are also authorized to enroll as billing or rendering providers within the IHCP and supervise plans of treatment for mental health or substance use disorder treatment services.

All other billing and prior authorization (PA) requirements remain the same. For any information not covered in IHCP bulletins, check with your [Gainwell Technologies Provider Relations field consultant](#) or email the Indiana Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) at [OMPPProviderRelations@fssa.IN.gov](mailto:OMPPProviderRelations@fssa.IN.gov).

Watch future IHCP publications for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about licensed behavioral health professionals previously designated as midlevel practitioners.

#### QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about this publication, please contact Customer Assistance at 1-800-457-4584.

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