

Comments for Chapter 537 Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers

Effective Date July 1, 2015

<u>Date Comment Received</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Status Result</u> <u>C=Change</u> <u>NC=No Change</u> <u>D=Duplicate</u> <u>Comment</u>	<u>Action for Change Status</u>	<u>Reasoning for No Change Status and FAQ's</u>
6/9/2015	The Chapter does not reference Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker services or codes in Integrated Behavioral Health in Primary Care. It would be beneficial to cross-reference these specialty services as a means of consolidating services and codes which may be provided by LICSWs, even if restricted to certain settings.	NC	NA	No change was made as this policy was developed to be a stand-alone policy in reference to allowing LICSW to independently enroll and bill under their own NPI. This policy is not intended to govern regulations pertaining to LICSW that work in the primary care setting where LICSW bill under the physician or at an FQHC.
6/9/2015	<p>The Code of West Virginia, §30-30-11 (b) and §30-30-12 (b), establish conditions under which a Licensed Certified Social Worker or Licensed Graduate Social Worker may engage in the supervised practice of clinical social work. To do so, the individual must have a contract approved by the WV Board of Social Work in which it is established that the LCSW or LGSW has:</p> <p><i>(1) Obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council on social work education that included a concentration of clinically oriented course work as defined by the board;</i></p> <p><i>(2) Has completed a supervised clinical field</i></p>	NC	NA	The WV Bureau of Medical Services at this time is only enrolling LICSW and does not allow for an LGSW to bill under an LICSW however we will take this under consideration and research this recommendation when the policy is updated in the future

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	<p><i>placement at the graduate level, or post-master's clinical training that is found by the board to be equivalent;</i></p> <p><i>(3) Has contracted, in writing, with a licensed clinical social worker who shall assume responsibility for and supervise the (certified or graduate) social worker's practice as directed by the board by promulgation of legislative rules;</i></p> <p><i>(4) (Is) employed by an institution or organization in which the (certified or graduate) social worker has no direct or indirect interest other than employment."</i></p> <p>The LCSW or LGSW eligible for this distinction has already completed an appropriate national standardized competency examination, and is truly on track to earning the LICSW as they have met all requirements for the LICSW with the exception of completion of two years of post-graduate clinical employment and LICSW supervision, and passage of the LICSW examination.</p> <p>Authorizing this group of providers to offer Medicaid reimbursable behavioral and mental health services under the supervision of an LICSW and a contractual relationship with the WV Board of Social Work is appropriate and essentially similar to the status of a WV "Supervised Psychologist."</p>			
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	<p>At present, it is frustratingly difficult for LCSW and LGSW social workers who are on the clinical track to find reasonable access to LICSW supervision. Unless bold steps are taken now to incentivize and “grow” this workforce and those similar, there will continue to be a severe lack of qualified behavioral health providers in the state. Authorizing supervised LCSW and LGSW social workers to provide reimbursable clinical social work services will stimulate the development of an essential mental and behavioral health workforce in health underserved areas across the state, and help assure that the next generation of behavioral and mental health practitioners is available to meet the ongoing needs of West Virginia’s Medicaid members, and of the state’s population as a whole.</p> <p>The Bureau should work with the WV Board of Social Work, and others as necessary, to develop an acceptable contract template.</p> <p>In summary, given the existing service codes for LICSW provision of integrated behavioral health care, and with West Virginia’s severe behavioral and mental health problems as well as the need for expanded access to quality treatment throughout the state, it is extremely important that the LICSW Chapter incorporate these provisions.</p>			
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