Department of Health

Medicaid Update

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Updated Medical Coverage of Mental Health Counseling by Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Licensed Master Social Workers Approved for Article 28 Outpatient Hospital Clinics and Free-Standing Diagnostic and Treatment Centers

Effectively immediate: for New York State (NYS) Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) and Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) Plans, in accordance with Section 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Social Security Act, the Department of Health (DOH) is revising its Medicaid coverage of mental health counseling by Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) and Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs) when rendered in Article 28 Outpatient Hospital Clinics and free-standing diagnostic and treatment centers (Article 28 DTC).

In an Article 28 clinic, there is no limit on the patient population that can receive treatment for services provided by Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs) or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs). This expansion of what LCSWs and LMSWs, in addition to LMHCs and LMFTs, can do to provide mental health counseling services within their scope of practice in an Article 28 clinic will be limitless on the Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) and Managed Care (MMC) Plans. The Medicaid FFS and MMC Plans will cover services by LCSWs, LMSWs, LMHCs and LMFTs for professional treatment for mental illness, substance use disorder (SUD) and co-occurring disorders (COD).

For additional information pertaining to LCSW, LMSW, LMHC, and LMFT services, please consult with the *Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Master Social Worker, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Scopes of Practice* on the Office of the Medicaid Director.

Questions
Questions regarding this update should be directed to Tamara Sisser, Integrated Care Advisor for the NYS Bureau of Adult Special Populations, at tamara.sisser@health.ny.gov.

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Updated Licensure Transitional Guidance for Ambulatory Services

The New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH), NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH), NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), and NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) continue to implement the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) initiatives to transform the delivery system for Medicaid Beneficiaries in Article 28 clinics. Common theme(s) are the amount of physical, behavioral and social determinants of health services provided in Article 28 clinics, and the need for flexibility in the delivery of these services to meet the needs of the Medicaid Beneficiary population.

Prior to this update, providers that wished to offer ambulatory primary care, behavioral health services or ancillary services in addition to clinic services must submit a separate Article 28 Ambulatory Care Services Addendum, which required a separate survey, and a separate Article 28 Ambulatory Care Services Operating Certificate (ACSOC) issued by the Department of Health (DOH). Currently, the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and NYS OPWDD have updated existing licensure therefore no separate addendum is required.

Article 28 Primary Care Services
Article 28 Provider Offering Ambulatory Behavioral Health Services and/or Ancillary Services Without Primary Care

Providers that are currently licensed as an Article 28 ambulatory care services provider may add services to their scope of practice **without** the need for a separate **third** annual survey for mental health, substance use disorder, and ancillary services. Providers that are currently licensed as an Article 28 clinic or hospital, but DOH, OMH, or OPWDD has not surveyed for primary care services, may add primary care services to their scope of practice **without** the need for a separate survey, if the provider is an Article 28 clinic or hospital, and/or, services provided in an Article 28 clinic or hospital, and/or, services provided in an Article 28 clinic or hospital, and/or, services provided in