

## Payment Policy | Behavioral Health Outpatient Professional Services



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 07|01| 2025

**POLICY LAST REVIEWED:** 12|17|2025

### OVERVIEW

The intent of this policy is to provide information regarding credentialing for professional outpatient behavioral health providers, document provider specialty restrictions for CPT codes, and to provide medical record documentation requirements for behavioral health providers.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

### NOTIFICATION OF ADMISSION

Not applicable

### POLICY STATEMENT

Credentialing:

BCBSRI credentials the following independently licensed behavioral health clinicians:

- Psychiatrists (MD, DO)
- Psychiatric Neurologist (MD, DO)
- Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist (MD, DO)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- Behavioral Health Nurse Practitioner (BH NP)
- Behavioral Health Physician's Assistant (BH PA)
- Psychologists (PhD, PsyD)
- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers (LICSW)
- Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT)
- Licensed Behavior Analysts (LBA)
- Licensed Chemical Dependency Professionals (LCDP) \*Not covered for Medicare Advantage Plans

BCBSRI has implemented a supervisory protocol process whereby Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), Postdoctoral clinicians, Mental Health Counselor Associates (MHC-As), and Marriage and Family Therapist Associates (MFT-As), and Physician Assistants (PAs) may render services to our members in a professional outpatient setting under the supervision of an independently licensed behavioral health clinician. Please refer to BCBSRI's Behavioral Health Supervisory Protocol for Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Postdoctoral Clinicians, Mental Health Counselor Associates, and Marriage and Family Therapist Associates policy.

For more information, please contact BCBSRI Behavioral Health Utilization Management at 1-800-274-2958

Coding:

Unless specified in a specific payment policy, BCBSRI follows correct coding and payment guidelines published by National and Regional CMS (including DMEMAC) and other correct coding national standards such as Current Procedural Terminology (CPT). Please refer to the Coding and Payment Guidelines policy for additional details. All services rendered should be in accordance with correct coding.

Provider specialty restrictions exist for CPT codes for behavioral health services as defined in the coding grids below.

### Behavioral Health Services Provided to Children Under the Age of 18:

BCBSRI recognizes that the evaluation of children/adolescents often takes longer than adults and requires additional collateral contacts that further differentiate this population. Effective, for dates of service on or after January 1, 2013, BCBSRI allows providers to file with a modifier "TU" Special Payment Rate, Overtime for extended psychiatric diagnostic interview examination (90791TU and 90792TU) for children under the age of 18. Extended services are defined as psychiatric diagnostic interview/examinations that extend longer than 75 minutes for our members under 18 years of age.

### Medical Record Documentation requirements

Please see the attached document that provides the Behavioral Health Medical Record Documentation standards

[Documentation Standards](#)

For additional information, please contact BCBSRI's Behavioral Health Utilization Management at 800-274-2958.

### COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable Behavioral Health Services for benefits and applicable deductibles and/ or co-payments.

### CODING

The following is applicable for Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products.

Table 1 is regarding the following specialties: Psychologist, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), Licensed Marriage/Family Therapist (LMFT), Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC), Licensed Chemical Dependency Professionals (LCDP)

Table 1			
Provider Specialty	CPT Code Name	CPT Code	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychologist</li> <li>Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)</li> <li>Licensed Marriage/Family Therapist (LMFT)</li> <li>Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC)</li> <li>Licensed Chemical Dependency Professionals (LCDP) *Not covered for Medicare Advantage Plans</li> </ul>	Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation	90791	
	Psychotherapy	90832, 90834, 90837	
	Interactive Complexity Add-On Code	90785	Must be billed with appropriate primary procedure per CPT coding guidelines
	Psychotherapy Crisis	90839, 90840	
	Family/Group Therapy	90846, 90847, 90849, 90853, 90857	
	Psychological and Neuro-Psychological Testing	Refer to <b>Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing</b> policy CPT coding details	<p>These procedures are <u>limited to the following</u> specialties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Neuropsychologist,</li> <li>2. Psychologist</li> <li>3. Pediatric neurodevelopmental specialist.</li> </ol> <p>Refer to the <b>Psychological and</b></p>

			<b>Neuropsychological Testing</b> policy for additional details.
	Health Behavior Assessment/ Intervention	Refer to <b>Health and Behavior Assessment</b> policy for CPT coding details	

Table 2 is regarding the following specialties: Psychiatry (MD, DO), Psychiatric Neurologist (MD, DO), Child/Adolescent Psychiatry (MD, DO), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Behavioral Health Nurse Practitioner (BH NP), Behavioral Health Physician's Assistant (BH PA)

Table 2			
Provider Specialty	CPT Code Name	CPT Code	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatry (MD, DO)</li> <li>• Psychiatric Neurologist (MD, DO)</li> <li>• Child/Adolescent Psychiatry (MD, DO)</li> <li>• Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)</li> <li>• Behavioral Health Nurse Practitioner (BH NP)</li> <li>• Behavioral Health Physician's Assistant (BH PA)</li> </ul>	Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation	90791	
	Psych Diagnostic Medical	90792	
	Psychotherapy	90832, 90834, 90837	
	Psychotherapy/E/M Add-On Codes	90833, 90836, 90838	Must be billed with appropriate primary procedure per CPT coding guidelines
	E/M Codes	99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99221-99223, 99231-99233, 99238, 99239	
	Interactive Complexity Add-On Code	90785	Must be billed with appropriate primary procedure per CPT coding guidelines
	Psychotherapy Crisis	90839, 90840	
	Family/Group Therapy	90846, 90847, 90849, 90853	
	Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)	Refer to <b>Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation</b> policy for CPT coding details	
	Electro Convulsive Therapy (ECT)	90870	
	Psychological and Neuro-Psychological Testing	Refer to <b>Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing</b> policy CPT coding details	These procedures are <u>limited to the following</u> specialties: 1. Neuropsychologist, 2. Psychologist 3. Pediatric neurodevelopmental

			specialist.  Refer to the <b>Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing</b> policy for additional details.
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Table 3 is regarding the following specialties: Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA) and Psychologists

Table 3			
Provider Specialty	CPT Code Name	CPT Code	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA)</li> <li>Psychologists</li> </ul>	Applied Behavior Analysis Codes. Please refer to <b>Autism Spectrum Disorders Mandate</b> policy for additional details	Please refer to <b>Autism Spectrum Disorders Mandate</b> policy for details on CPT coding	LBAs are only allowed to file claims for the codes in this code set. Please refer to <b>Autism Spectrum Disorders Mandate</b> policy for additional details

## RELATED POLICIES

Autism Spectrum Disorders Mandate

Behavioral Health Supervisory Protocol for Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Postdoctoral Clinicians, Mental Health Counselor Associates, and Marriage and Family Therapist Associates

Coding and Payment Guidelines

Health and Behavior Assessment

Preventative Services for Commercial

Provider Credentialing and Recredentialing Process

Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing

Telemedicine Services for Medicare Advantage

Telemedicine Services for Commercial Products

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation

## PUBLISHED

Provider Update, July 2025

Provider Update, February/December 2024

Provider Update March 2023

Provider Update August 2022

Provider Update August 2021

## REFERENCES

None

### CLICK THE ENVELOPE ICON BELOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

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