

Mental Health Certified Family Peer Specialist (CFPS)

Policy Number: SC17P0065A3

Effective Date: May 1, 2018

Last Update: May 13, 2025

PAYMENT POLICY HISTORY

DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGE
May 13, 2025	Annual policy review complete. Updates made to definitions. Additional grammar, formatting, and stylization updates applied.
February 19, 2025	Policy updated to reflect change to legislated payment adjustment outlined on Approved SPA 24-44.
June 24, 2024	Annual policy review complete. Updates made to definitions and payment information sections. Additional grammar, formatting, and stylization updates applied.
February 16, 2023	Annual policy review is completed. Updates made to provider eligibility & covered services have been replaced with a "Scope" section (changes published by DHS October 17, 2022). Policy definitions were also updated.
September 19, 2022	Information regarding code-specific procedure CPT® or HCPCS was removed.
November 23, 2021	The annual policy review is completed. No changes were made to the policy.
October 20, 2020	Annual policy review was completed. Grammatical and typographical corrections were made. Enrollee eligibility criteria was updated. The Policy was moved to UCare's updated template, and as a result some information may have been reformatted.
August 30, 2019	Information regarding comparison to the DHS MH Procedure CPT® or HCPCS Codes and Rates Chart and UCare fee schedules was removed from the document. The UCare Provider Manual contains information regarding how and when UCare updates fee schedules. A link to the UCare Provider Manual continues to be available within the document.
July 5, 2019	Based on changed DHS made to the MHCP provider manual dated May 24, 2019, UCare updated provider eligibility requirements, patient eligibility criteria, and the covered services associated with mental health certified family peer specialist services. In addition, the UCare logo and links within the policy have been updated as well.
May 1, 2018	The Mental Health Certified Family Peer Specialist was published by UCare.

APPLICABLE PRODUCTS

This policy applies to the products listed below:

UCARE PRODUCT	PRODUCT TYPE	APPLIES TO
UCare Connect	Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP)	✓
UCare MinnesotaCare	Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP)	✓
UCare Prepaid Medical Assistance (PMAP)	Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP)	✓

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PAYMENT POLICY INSTRUCTIONS

A payment policy assists in determining provider reimbursement for specific covered services. To receive payment, the provider must be in a contractual relationship with UCare and provide services to a member enrolled in one of UCare's products. This payment policy is intended to provide a foundation for system configuration, work instructions, call scripts, and provider communications. A payment policy describes the rules for payment, which include applicable fee schedules, additional payment rules by regulatory bodies, and contractual terms. This policy is a general guideline and may be superseded by specific provider contract language.

PAYMENT POLICY OVERVIEW

Certified Family Peer Specialist services (CFPS) are rehabilitative and use a non-clinical approach to help an individual with mental illness discover their strengths and develop their own recovery goals by emphasizing development, enhancement, and acquisition of skills needed to move forward in their recovery.

POLICY DEFINITIONS

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Mental Health Professional	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical nurse specialist (CNS)• Licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW)• Licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT)• Licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC)• Licensed psychologist (LP)• Mental health rehabilitative professional• Psychiatric nurse practitioner (NP)• Psychiatry or an osteopathic physician• Tribal-certified professional

ENROLLEE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

THIS SECTION OF THE POLICY PROVIDES INFORMATION THAT IS SPECIFIC TO THE UCARE MEMBER, INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRITERIA THE MEMBER MUST MEET IN ORDER FOR THE SERVICE(S) IN THE POLICY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT.

To be eligible for CFPS services, a child or youth must be receiving any one of the following services:

- Inpatient hospitalization
- Partial hospitalization
- Residential treatment
- Treatment foster care
- Day treatment
- Children's therapeutic services and supports
- Crisis services programs

ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OR FACILITIES

OUTLINED BELOW IS THE SPECIFIC CRITERIA A PROVIDER MUST MEET IN ORDER FOR THE SERVICE(S) IN THIS POLICY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT.

Provider

Certified family peer specialists are employed by existing mental health community providers or centers who are enrolled in MHCP.

The certified family peer specialist must meet all the following qualifications:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Have raised or are currently raising a child with a mental illness
- Be currently navigating or have experience navigating the children's mental health system
- Successfully complete the Department of Human Services-approved Certified Family Peer Specialist Training and certification exam.

Family peer specialists must successfully complete the Minnesota-specific training, approved by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to become certified by DHS, and must renew or recertify every two years through continuing education requirements.

Supervision Requirements

To meet clinical supervision criteria a certified family peer specialist must:

- Be supervised by a mental health professional during the first 2000 hours of employment which includes direct onsite observation while providing peer services as follows:
 - Newly hired at least six hours per 40 hours for the first 160 hours
 - Workers in continued employment at least six hours every six months
- Have Mental health professional review and cosign progress notes

Facility

Not applicable.

Other and/or Additional Information

Not applicable.

EXCLUDED PROVIDER TYPES

OUTLINED BELOW IS INFORMATION REGARDING PROVIDERS WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO FURNISH THE SERVICE(S) LISTED IN THIS POLICY.

Not applicable.

MODIFIERS, CPT, HCPCS, AND REVENUE CODES

General Information

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and Revenue codes listed in this policy are for reference purposes only. Including information in this policy does not imply that the service described by a code is a covered or non-covered health service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee of claim payment.

Modifiers

The modifiers listed below are not intended to be a comprehensive list of all modifiers. Instead, the modifiers that are listed are those that must be appended to the CPT® / HCPCS codes listed below. Based on the service(s) provided, and the circumstances surrounding those services it may, based on correct coding, be appropriate to append an additional modifier(s) to the CPT® / HCPCS code.

When a service requires multiple modifiers, the modifiers must be submitted in the order listed below. If it is necessary to add additional modifiers, they should be added after the modifiers listed below.

MODIFIER(S)	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
HA	Child or Adolescent
HQ	Group Modality

CPT and/or HCPCS Code(s)

CPT AND/OR HCPCS CODE(S)	MODIFIER(S)	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
H0038	HA	Certified family peer specialist services
H0038	HA, HQ	Certified family peer specialist services in a group setting.

CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

Revenue Codes

Not applicable.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Scope

Certified family peer specialists under [Treatment Supervision](#) of a mental health professional must:

- Provide services to increase the child's ability to function in the child's home, school, and community.
- Provide family peer support to build on a member's family's strengths and help the family achieve desired outcomes
- Provide non-adversarial advocacy to a child and the child's family that encourages partnership and promotes the child's positive change and growth
- Support families in advocating for culturally appropriate services for a child in each treatment setting
- Promote resiliency, self-advocacy, and development of natural supports
- Support maintenance of skills learned from other services
- Establish and lead parent support groups
- Assist parents in developing coping and problem-solving skills
- Educate parents about mental illnesses and community resources, including resources that connect parents with similar experiences to one another.

Non-Covered Services

The following services are not covered as CFPS services:

- Transportation
- Services that are performed by volunteers
- Household tasks, chores or related activities including, but not limited to laundering clothes, moving, housekeeping and grocery shopping
- Time spent "on call" and not delivering services to patients

- On-the-job training or other job-specific skills services
- Case management
- Outreach to potential patients
- Services furnished to family members
- Room and board
- Services furnished by providers that are not approved to provide CFPS services
- CFPS services that are included in the daily rate may not be billed separately

Payment Adjustments

Payment Reductions

Based on MHCP guidelines when certain mental services are furnished by a master's prepared provider a twenty percent (20%) reduction is applied to the allowed amount. Master's prepared providers may include:

- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS-MH)
- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC)
- Licensed Psychologist (LP) master's Level
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
- Master's Level enrolled provider

Master's level reductions are not applied to mental health services when they are furnished:

- In a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)
- By a Mental Health Practitioner qualified to work as a clinical trainee

Payment Enhancements

In addition to the master's level provider reduction, UCare also applies a legislated adjustment to specific mental health services when furnished by the providers listed below.

July 2007 through December 2024, the legislated adjustment was 23.7%.
Effective January 2025, the legislated adjustment is 11.85%.

- Psychiatrists;
- Advance Practice Nurses;
 - Clinical Nurse Specialist
 - Nurse Practitioner
- Community Mental Health Centers;
- Mental health clinics and centers certified under Rule 29 and designated by the Minnesota Department of Mental Health as an essential community provider;

- Hospital outpatient psychiatric departments designated by the Minnesota Department of Mental Health as an essential community provider; and
- Children’s Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) providers for services identified as CTSS in the DHS mental health procedure CPT or HCPCS codes and rates chart.

Information on UCare fee schedule updates can be found in the [UCare Provider Manual](#).

BILLING REQUIREMENTS AND DIRECTIONS

When submitting CFPS services use the 837P (Professional) format or the electronic equivalent.

Time Based Services

When billing for services that include time as part of their definition, follow HCPCS and CPT guidelines to determine the appropriate unit(s) of service to report. Based on current guidelines, providers must spend more than half the time of a time-based code performing the service to report the code. If the time spent results in more than one- and one-half times the defined value of the code, and no additional time increment code exists, round up to the next whole number. Outlined below are the billable units of service based on whether the description of the service includes the unit of measurement of 15 minutes or 60 minutes:

MINUTES	BILLABLE UNITS
Fifteen (15) Minute Increments	
0 – 7 minutes	0 (no billable unit of service)
8 – 15 minutes	1 (unit of billable service)
Sixty (60) Minute Increments	
0 – 30 minutes	0 (no billable unit of service)
31 – 60 minutes	1 (unit of billable service)

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION, NOTIFICATION, AND THRESHOLD INFORMATION

Prior Authorization, Notification, and Threshold Requirements

UCare does update authorization, notification, and threshold requirements from time-to-time. The most current prior authorization requirements can be found [here](#).

RELATED PAYMENT POLICY INFORMATION

OUTLINED BELOW ARE OTHER POLICIES THAT MAY RELATE TO THIS POLICY AND/OR MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THIS POLICY.

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE
SC14P0026A3	Certified Peer Specialist

SOURCE DOCUMENTS AND REGULATORY REFERENCES

LISTED BELOW ARE LINKS TO CMS, MHCP, AND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REFERENCES USED TO CREATE THIS POLICY

[MHCP Provider Manual, Mental Health Services, Mental Health Certified Family Peer Specialist](#)

[DHS MH Procedure CPT® or HCPCS Codes and Rates Chart.](#)

[Minnesota Statutes 245I.04](#)

[Minnesota Statutes 245I.06 - Treatment Supervision](#)

[MN Statutes 256B.0616 Mental Health Certified Family Peer Specialist](#)

DISCLAIMER

“Payment Policies assist in administering payment for UCare benefits under UCare’s health benefit Plans. Payment Policies are intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UCare’s administration of health benefits and are not intended to address all issues related to payment for health care services provided to UCare members. When submitting claims, all providers must first identify member eligibility, federal and state legislation, or regulatory guidance regarding claims submission, UCare provider participation agreement contract terms, and the member-specific Evidence of Coverage (EOC) or other benefit document. In the event of a conflict, these sources supersede the Payment Policies. Payment Policies are provided for informational purposes and do not constitute coding or compliance advice. Providers are responsible for submission of accurate and compliant claims. In addition to Payment Policies, UCare also uses tools developed by third parties, such as the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®*), InterQual guidelines, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

(CMS), the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), or other coding guidelines, to assist in administering health benefits. References to CPT® or other sources in UCare Payment Policies are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to payment. Other UCare Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines may also apply. UCare reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary and to administer payments in a manner other than as described by UCare Payment Policies when necessitated by operational considerations.”