

Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) / Intensive Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (IRMHS)

Policy Number: S14P0009A3

Effective Date: May 1, 2018

Last Update: January 5, 2026

PAYMENT POLICY HISTORY

DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGE
January 5, 2026	Policy updated to reflect change to legislated payment adjustment outlined in MN Statute Sec. 256B.763, originally approved in SPA 24-44.
June 16, 2025	Definition of Certified Peer Specialist updated in line with June 2025 MHCP publication.
April 14, 2025	Annual policy review completed. Updates made to definitions, enrollee eligibility, and provider eligibility sections.
February 19, 2025	Policy updated to reflect change to legislated payment adjustment outlined on Approved SPA 24-44.
June 13, 2024	Annual policy review complete. Updates made to definitions. Additional grammar, formatting, and stylization updates applied.
June 8, 2023	Annual policy review completed. Updates made to enrollee eligibility, provider eligibility, payment information, and billing requirements sections.
February 16, 2023	Definition updates were completed to match other UCare MH policies.
September 19, 2022	Information regarding code-specific procedure CPT® or HCPCS was removed.
May 25, 2021	The title was changed to the title listed above. The title of the policy was previously titled Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). Any reference to Youth ACT was updated to Youth ACT/IRMHS. The policy format was updated and as a result some of the information may have been reformatted. The title change was based on a change made in the MHCP Provider Manual. Typographical and grammatical corrections were made. The following updates were made to the policy and are effective 12/20/2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Youth ACT definition was deleted and replaced with a Youth ACT/IRMHS definition; The Eligible Provider section of this policy was updated; and Service standards were added to the Payment Section of this Policy.
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

DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGE
	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.
June 24, 2019	Annual policy review completed. All internal links and the UCare logo were updated. Provider eligibility requirements for Level I and Level II Certified Peer Specialists were updated based on DHS requirements.
May 1, 2018	The Youth Assertive Community Treatment payment policy was published by UCare.

APPLICABLE PRODUCTS

This policy applies to the products checked below:

UCARE PRODUCT	PRODUCT TYPE	APPLIES TO
UCare Connect + Medicare (When MHCP is the primary payer)	Dually Integrated	✓
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

Youth Assertive Community Treatment (Youth ACT)/Intensive Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (IRMHS) is an intensive, comprehensive, and nonresidential rehabilitative mental health service. Services are delivered using a multidisciplinary team approach and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Youth ACT/IRMHS teams work intensively with youth with severe mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance use issues to assist them with remaining in their community while reducing the need for residential or inpatient placements. Teams also work with youth leaving these placements to ensure a smooth transition back to their home, family, and community. Services are delivered in an age-appropriate and culturally sensitive manner designed to meet the specific needs of each client.

POLICY DEFINITIONS

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS)	Mental health services which are rehabilitative and enable the patient to develop and enhance psychiatric stability, social competencies, personal and emotional adjustment, and independent living and community skills, when these abilities are impaired by the symptoms of mental illness. The services also enable a patient to retain stability and functioning if the patient is at risk of losing significant functionality or being admitted to a more restrictive service setting without these services. In addition, the services instruct, assist, and support a patient in areas such as medication education and monitoring, and basic social and living skills in mental illness symptom management, household management, employment-related, or transitioning to community living.
Certified Peer Specialist	A trained individual who uses a non-clinical approach that helps patients discover their strengths and develop their own unique

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
	<p>recovery goals. The CPS models wellness, personal responsibility, self-advocacy, and hopefulness through appropriate sharing of his or her story based on lived experience.</p> <p>UCare recognizes two levels of certified peer specialists: Level I and Level II.</p> <p>Qualifications</p> <p>Level I Certified Peer Specialist</p> <p>Level I peer specialists must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have or have had a primary diagnosis of mental illness • Is a current or former recipient of mental health services • Successfully completes the DHS approved Certified Peer Specialist training and certification exam <p>Level II Certified Peer Specialist</p> <p>Level II peer specialists must meet all requirement of a Level I CPS and be qualified as a mental health practitioner.</p>
Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS)	<p>A flexible package of mental health services for children who require varying therapeutic and rehabilitative levels of intervention. CTSS addresses the conditions of emotional disturbance that impair and interfere with an individual's ability to function independently. For children with emotional disturbances, rehabilitation means a series or multidisciplinary combination of psychiatric and psychosocial interventions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore a child or adolescent to an age-appropriate developmental trajectory that had been disrupted by a psychiatric illness; or • Enable the child to self-monitor, compensate for, cope with, counteract, or replace psychosocial skills, deficits or maladaptive skills acquired over the course of a psychiatric illness.
Clinical Trainee	<p>A mental health practitioner who meets the qualifications specified in MN Statute 245I.04, subdivision 6.</p>
Mental Health Practitioner	<p>Mental health practitioners are people who provide services to adults with mental illness or children with emotional disturbance.</p> <p>Mental Health Practitioners are not eligible for enrollment.</p>

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
	<p>They must be under the treatment supervision of a mental health professional and qualified in at least one of the ways outlined in MN Statute 245I.04, Subdivision 4.</p> <p>In addition to the criteria outlined in MN Statute 245I.04, MHCP requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mental health practitioner for a child member must have training working with children. • A mental health practitioner for an adult member must have training working with adults.
Mental Health Practitioner Qualified as a Clinical Trainee	<p>A mental health practitioner working as a clinical trainee meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be complying with requirements for licensure or board certification as a mental health professional including supervised practice in the delivery of mental health services for the treatment of mental illness • Be a student in a bona fide field placement or internship under a program leading to completion of the requirements for licensure as a mental health professional <p>The clinical trainee's clinical supervision experience helps the practitioner gain knowledge and skills necessary to practice effectively and independently. The experience gained by the clinical trainee during supervision may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct practice • Treatment team collaboration • Continued professional learning • Job management
Mental Health Professional	<p>One of the following providers:</p> <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
Youth Assertive Community Treatment (Youth ACT)/Intensive	<p>An intensive, comprehensive, and non-residential rehabilitative mental health service. Services are delivered using a multidisciplinary team approach and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, Youth</p>

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (IRMHS)	ACT/IRMHS services are delivered in an age-appropriate and culturally sensitive manner to meet the needs of each specific client and teams work intensively with youth with severe mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance use issues to assist them with remaining in their community while reducing the need for residential or inpatient placements. Teams also work with youth discharging from these placements to ensure a smooth transition back to their home, family, and community.

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.

Effective August 1, 2022, to be eligible for Youth Act/IRMHS, UCare members must:

- Be actively enrolled in one of the UCare products listed above;
- Be 8 years old or older and under 21 years old;
- Be diagnosed with serious mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorder
- Received a level-of-care determination and functional assessment, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, 245I.02, that indicates a need for intensive integrated intervention without 24-hour medical monitoring and a need for extensive collaboration among multiple providers; impairment and a history of difficulty in functioning safely and successfully in the community, school, home, or job.
- Have likely need for services from the adult mental health system during adulthood.
- Have a current diagnostic assessment indicating the need for intensive nonresidential rehabilitative mental health services.

Effective July 1, 2021, to July 31, 2022, the eligibility criteria below apply to UCare members:

To be eligible for Youth Act/IRMHS, UCare members must be:

- Be actively enrolled in one of the UCare products listed above;
- Be 8 years old or older and under 26 years old;
- Be diagnosed with serious mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse addiction;
- Receive a level of care determination of Level 4 on the CASII for ages 8 up to 18 and Level 4 on the LOCUS for ages 18 up to 26. The level of care must indicate a need for intensive integrated

intervention without 24-hour monitoring and a need for extensive collaboration among multiple providers;

- Have a functional impairment and a history of difficulty in functioning safely and successfully in the community, school, home, or job;
- Have a likely need for services from the adult mental health system during adulthood;
- Have a current diagnostic assessment indicating the need for intensive nonresidential rehabilitative mental health services.

Prior to July 1, 2021, the eligibility requirements are applicable to UCare members:

To be eligible for Youth ACT /IRMHS services the patient must meet the following criteria:

- Be actively enrolled in one of the UCare products listed above;
- The patient must be 16 years old or older and under 21 years old;
- Have a diagnosis of serious mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse addiction; Have a CASII level of care determination of level 4 or above indicating a need for intensive integrated intervention without 24-hour monitoring;
- Functional impairment and a history of difficulty functioning safely and successfully in the community, school, home, or job;
- Probable need for services from the adult mental health system within the next two years; and mental health services; and
- Have a current diagnostic assessment indicating the need for intensive nonresidential rehabilitative mental health services.

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

An eligible Youth ACT/IRMHS program must:

- Hold a contract with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS);
- Follow all Minnesota Youth ACT/IRMHS Treatment Standards;

A core Youth ACT/IRMHS team must maintain at least four full-time equivalent direct care staff which must include:

- Mental Health Professional
- Co-occurring disorder specialist
- Certified Peer Specialist; and

- One of the following, credentialed providers to prescribe medications:
 - Advanced practice registered nurse certified in psychiatric or mental health care
 - Board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist

Based on member needs, the team may also include:

- Additional mental health professionals
- A vocational specialist
- An educational specialist
- A child and adolescent psychiatrist retained on a consultant basis
- Mental health practitioners
- Clinical trainees
- Case management service provider
- A housing access specialist
- A family peer specialist

Additional Team Members

- A treatment team may include, in addition to the at least four full-time equivalent direct care staff and others based on member needs, ad hoc members not employed by the team who consult on a specific client and who must accept overall clinical direction from the treatment team for the duration of the client's placement with the treatment team. Ad hoc team members must be paid by the provider agency at the rate for a typical session by that provider with that client or at a rate negotiated with the ad hoc team member. Ad hoc team members may include, but are not limited to:
 - The mental health professional treating the member before entering the Youth ACT/IRMHS team (includes therapist or psychiatrist)
 - The current substance abuse counselor
 - A lead member of the member's individualized education program or school-based mental health provider
 - A representative from the member's Tribe
 - The member's probation agent or other juvenile justice representative
 - The member's current vocational or employment counselor
 - Clinical trainee
- The Youth ACT/IRMHS team may only bill for services provided by these additional team members when the services are not reimbursed through another funding source. For example, the team may not bill for services provided by the school district through the individualized education plan (IEP), as these services are reimbursed separately.

Facility

Not applicable; this policy applies to professional services.

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

CPT and/or HCPCS Code(s)

CPT AND/OR HCPCS CODE(S)	MODIFIER(S)	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
H0040	HA	Assertive Community Treatment - Children

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

Revenue Codes

Not applicable.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Covered Services

The Youth ACT/IRMHS team provides the following services:

- Individual, family, and group psychotherapy
- Individual, family, and group skills training
- Crisis planning
- Medication management
- Mental health case management
- Medication education
- Care coordination with other care providers
- Psychoeducation to, and consultation and coordination with, the patient's support network (with or without patient present)
- Clinical consultation to the patient's employer or school
- Coordination with, or performance of, crisis intervention and stabilization services
- Assessment of the patient's treatment progress and effectiveness of services using outcome measurements
- Transition services
- Integrated dual disorders treatment
- Housing access support

Services must be age-appropriate and meet the specific cultural needs of the patient.

Service Standards

An individual treatment team must serve youth who are either:

- At least 8 years old and under 21 years old;
- At least 14 years old or older and under 21 years old.

The treatment team must have specialized training in providing services to the specific age group of youth that the team serves.

UCare members and/or family members must receive at least three face-to-face contacts per week that meet the following criteria:

- Face-to face contacts must total a minimum of 85 minutes of service;
- The treatment team must use team treatment, not an individual treatment model;
- Services must be age-appropriate and meet the specific needs of the client; and
- The initial functional assessment must be completed within ten (10) days of intake and updated at least every six (6) months or prior to discharge from the service, whichever comes first.

Each client must have an individualized treatment plan, and it must:

- Be based on the information in the client's diagnostic assessment and baselines;
- Identify goals and objectives of treatment, a treatment strategy, a schedule for accomplishing treatment goals and objectives and the individuals responsible for providing treatment services and supports;
- Be developed after completion of the client's diagnostic assessment by a mental health professional or clinical trainee and before providing children's therapeutic services and supports;
- Be developed through a child-centered, family-driven, culturally appropriate planning process, including allowing parents and guardians to observe or participate in individual and family treatment services, assessments, and treatment planning;
- Be reviewed at least once every six (6) months and revised to document treatment progress on each treatment objective and next goals or, if progress is not documented, document changes in treatment;
- Ensure that the client approves of the client's individual treatment plan unless a court orders the client's treatment plan under Minnesota Statutes 253B.
- If the client disagrees with the client's treatment plan, the license holder must document in the client file the reasons why the client does not agree with the treatment plan. If the license holder cannot obtain the client's approval of the treatment plan, a mental health professional must make efforts to obtain approval from a person who is authorized to consent on the client's behalf within 30 days after the client's previous individual treatment plan expired. A license holder may not deny a client service during this time period solely because the license holder could not obtain the client's approval of the client's individual treatment plan. A license holder may continue to bill for the client's otherwise eligible services when the client

Concurrent Services

- Youth ACT/IRMHS Team allows for additional providers to participate in the team program as needed to meet the patient's needs. The Youth ACT/IRMHS program may only bill for these additional services when the services are not reimbursed through another funding source.
- When concurrent services are furnished, the Youth ACT/IRMHS Team must coordinate all concurrent services. Specific services are included in the Youth ACT/IRMHS rate and are not

separately billable. The grid below outlines the services that are included as part of the Youth ACT/IRMHS rate.

SERVICE	SERVICE INCLUDED AS PART OF YOUTH ACT?	CAN THE SERVICE BE FURNISHED IN ADDITION TO YOUTH ACT?
Mental Health Targeted Case Management	Yes	No
Children's Mental Health Day Treatment	No	When authorized
Children's Residential Treatment Services	No	No
Partial Hospitalization	No	Yes
IRTS	No	Yes
CTSS and ARMHS	Yes	No
Mental Health Behavioral Aide Services	No	No
Crisis Assessment & Intervention (mobile)	Yes	No
Crisis Stabilization -Non-Residential	Yes	No
Crisis Stabilization - Residential	No	Yes
Medication Management	Yes	No
Outpatient Psychotherapy	Yes	No
Inpatient Hospitalization	No	Yes
Waivered Services	No	Yes
Other medical services (e.g., PCA)	No	Yes

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%.

Effective January 2026, the legislated adjustment is 5.92%.

- 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**Billing Guidelines**

- Submit claims using the 837P format or the electronic equivalent;
- Enter each date of service on a separate line, reporting one unit of service per day
- UCare will reimburse Youth ACT/IRMHS Services:
 - Based on one, all-inclusive daily rate
 - To one provider per day.
- Youth ACT/IRMHS requires face-to-face contact. Count the following services as face-to-face when the need for the patient's absence is documented:
 - Family psychoeducation
 - Family psychotherapy
 - Clinical consultation to the patient's school or employer.
- Only one agency may bill when team members are from more than one agency. The billing provider reimburses other contributing agencies. Mental Health professionals acting as team members may not bill their services separately from the Youth ACT team. Travel is billed separately.

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
SC15P0050A4	Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS)
SC14P0026A4	Certified Peer Specialist
SG14P0010A3	CTSS
SC14P0010A3	CTSS Children's Day Treatment
SC17P0062A3	Children's Mental Health Residential Treatment

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE
SC14P0034A3	Mental Health Partial Hospitalization
SC14P0025A5	IRTS

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, Youth ACT/IRMHS](#)

[Minnesota Statute 256B.0947](#)

[Minnesota Statute 245I.011](#)

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.”