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COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL PROVIDERS (PL # A-113)

FROM: Leslie H. Hoffmann, Deputy Commissioner

DATE: January 3, 2024

RE: Mobile Crisis Intervention Service (MCIS) Expansion

In July 2023, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), announced approval of Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services' (DMS) State Plan Amendment to cover community-based mobile crisis intervention services (MCIS). DMS has contracted with Carelon Behavioral Health to serve as the new MCIS Administrative Services Organization (MCIS-ASO) providing oversight of the community-based behavioral health crisis continuum.

The regulation filed December 6, 2023, will put in place a new service definition and specific components required for delivery of new services within the community-based behavioral health crisis continuum: MCIS, 23-Hour Crisis Observation Stabilization (COSS), and behavioral health crisis transportation (BHCT).

Community-Based MCIS includes dispatch of the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) at the individual's location for those experiencing a behavioral health crisis. A behavioral health crisis is defined as any behavioral, SUD, or psychiatric situation perceived to be a crisis by the individual. MCIS aims to effect symptom or harm reduction or to safely transition an individual in acute crisis to the appropriate level of care. Delivery of MCIS includes conducting a crisis screening and assessment, stabilization, and de-escalation; coordination with post-crisis follow-up services, including referrals to health, social and other support services as needed; and follow-up with the individual.

- MCIS must be provided in duration of less than 24 hours.
- MCIS must be available on a 24/7/365 basis.
- MCIS must be provided outside of a hospital or other facility.
- MCT must be composed of at least two people to ensure safety.
- MCT must include a minimum of one behavioral health practitioner that is able to perform an assessment.

COSS is a voluntary, 23-hour direct service, designed to stabilize and restore the individual to a level of functioning in the least restrictive environment. COSS provides assessment and stabilization interventions to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis for a period of up to 23 hours in a Crisis Observation Stabilization Services Unit (COSSU).

- COSS must be provided in a duration of 23 hours or less.
- COSS providers must have access to 24/7/365 hours nursing services, at least RN-level.
- COSSUs must have access to a prescriber for Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)
- COSSUs must have access to a board certified or board eligible psychiatrist on a 24/7/365 basis.

Behavioral Health Crisis Transportation (BHCT) includes 24/7/365 transport services after a crisis assessment that requires a higher level of care or transport between facilities. This service includes:

- Transport between facilities including but not limited to transportation from emergency departments to behavioral health crisis treatment including COSS, RCSS, or inpatient psychiatric hospitals.
- Transport after a crisis assessment that requires a higher level of care.
- Transport of a recipient of MCIS to COSS, RCSS, residential or inpatient hospital.
- BHCT must be staffed by 2 employees, including a driver and a support staff person.
- BHCT must meet the service definition and vehicle requirements outlined in the SPA.
- Providers may begin enrolling as soon as January 2024.

This amendment defines service expansions that can be provided by behavioral health licensed organizations:

Code	Modifier	Services	Unit	Authorized provider Type	Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) Rate	Limitations	ASO Begins Billing
S9484	HE HF	23-Hour Crisis Observation & Stabilization Services	Per Hour	51	\$65	23 units per calendar day	Around June 1, 2024
H0018	HE	Mental Health Residential Crisis Stabilization Unit (RCSU)	Per Diem	51	\$530	1 unit per calendar day	Around July 1, 2024
S9485	HE HF	Community Based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services (MCIS)	Per Diem	51	\$640	1 unit per calendar day	Around June 1, 2024
T2003		Behavioral Health Crisis Transport (BHCT). New Provider Type 59.	Per Trip	51	\$80	None	Around June 1, 2024
A0425		Behavioral Health Crisis Transport (BHCT)	Per Mile		\$2	Do not allow A0425 if T2003 is not submitted for the same date of service for the same member by the same provider.	Around June 1, 2024

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics who render MCIS will receive their Prospective Payment System (PPS) rate.

In order to provide these services, providers **must be contracted** with Carelon. Providers will no longer bill Fee-for-Service (FFS) or Managed Care Organizations for these services beginning June 1, 2024. Carelon will enroll as a new Provider Type (PT 51) and then link each provider that contracts with them to their enrollment allowing Carelon to bill for services rendered by the provider. Carelon will then reimburse the provider for services rendered. Carelon is required to follow all FFS reimbursement and claims processing requirements. There will not be any administrative fees removed from the rate of service.

Caron Provider Enrollment contact information. Eric Eason, Eric.Eason@carelon.com.

If there are questions about this guidance, please email DMS.Issues@ky.gov.