Behavioral Health
Medicaid
Reimbursement in
Kentucky:
A Regional and
National Comparison



Medicaid Oversight & Advisory Board July 30, 2025 Michelle Sanborn, President <u>Children's Alliance Recommendation:</u> Require Kentucky fee schedules to be posted no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for an April 1<sup>st</sup> implementation date.

The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) is updated annually by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), with new rates going into effect on January 1st. **CMS is required to publish the new rates in the Federal Register by November of the preceding year.** 

New behavioral health rates in Kentucky were posted on July 15, 2025 for an April 1, 2025 effective date.

Delay in posting the new rates is very inefficient for providers and payors (MCOs, Medicaid) due to having to reprocess all these claims.



Kentucky Medicaid undervalues behavioral health care, by only reimbursing providers at just 75% or less of Medicare rates.



# Kentucky Lags Behind Neighboring States in Behavioral Health Rates:

:PT	Medicaid Kentucky Provider Type																( )
	Provider Type					111	Ouri	all	ng St	a	tes						
		KY		Avg Other States		IL		MO_		IN		OH		VA		WV	
						IL-I	MD									wv	- MD
	Licensed Independent																
90837	·		89.91	\$	119.65	\$	139.36	\$	112.26	\$	109.16	\$	115.35	\$	112.27	\$	129.52
	Psvchiatrist, MD/DO	\$	112.39	\$	133.80	\$	91.58	\$	149.68	\$	145.54	\$	135.71	\$	166.32	\$	113.97
	Licensed Independent	-		•		Ť		Ť		Ť		Ť		Ť		Ť	
90834	Therapist	\$	60.69	\$	84.51	\$	104.52	\$	76.43	\$	74.05	\$	78.63	\$	76.32	\$	97.14
	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	75.86	\$	90.87	\$	62.03	\$	101.90	\$	98.73	\$	92.51	\$	113.06	\$	76.96
	Licensed Independent																
90832	Therapist	\$	46.00	\$	61.10	\$	69.68	\$	57.90	\$	56.09	\$	60.49	\$	57.69	\$	64.76
	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	57.50	\$	68.99	\$	46.98	\$	77.20	\$	74.78	\$	71.16	\$	85.46	\$	58.33
	Licensed Independent																
90791	Therapist	\$	103.63	\$	134.29	\$	139.36	\$	133.09	\$	123.35	\$	125.28	\$	133.48	\$	151.20
	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	129.53	\$	155.37	\$	122.11	\$	177.45	\$	164.46	\$	147.39	\$	197.75	\$	123.04
	Licensed Independent																
90847	Therapist	\$	60.71	\$	94.71	\$	151.36	\$	75.83	\$	73.78	\$	96.53	\$	76.05		
	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	75.89	\$	95.45	\$	69.80	\$	101.11	\$	98.37	\$	113.56	\$	112.67	\$	77.21
	Licensed Independent																
90846	Therapist	\$	58.24	\$	88.87	\$	151.36	\$	73.24	\$	70.40	\$	98.02	\$	72.95	\$	67.22
	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	72.80	\$	97.79			\$	97.65	\$	93.87	\$	115.32	\$	108.08	\$	74.02
	Licensed Independent																
90853	Therapist	\$	16.37	\$	26.41	\$	38.48	\$	20.33	\$	19.77	\$	31.71	\$	20.43	\$	27.72
	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	20.47	\$	29.26	\$	33.70	\$	27.11	\$	26.36	\$	37.31	\$	30.27	\$	20.83
	Licensed Independent																
99408	Therapist	\$	17.55	\$	19.22					\$	23.91			\$	9.65	\$	24.10
	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	21.95	\$	23.40					\$	31.88			\$	14.30	\$	24.02
	Companion Ct-t- !-!		- I/V														
	•																
				e for t	his level of prof	ess	ional										
	Both IL and WV use differer	nt bil	ling codes	for th	eir community	beh	avioral hea	alth :	services -	so n	ot a mato	h,					
	90834 90832 90791 90847 90846 90853	90837 Therapist Psychiatrist, MD/DO Licensed Independent Psychiatrist, MD/DO Comparison State is Lowe Comparison State is Lowe Comparison State is Highe No reimbursement rate for Both IL and WV use differe	Psychiatrist, MD/DO \$ Licensed Independent Therapist \$ Psychiatrist, MD/DO \$ Comparison State is Lower that Comparison State is Comparate Comparison State is Higher that No reimbursement rate found for Both IL and WV use different bill	90837         Therapist         \$ 89.91           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 112.39           Licensed Independent         \$ 60.69           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.86           Licensed Independent         \$ 46.00           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 57.50           Licensed Independent         \$ 103.63           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 129.53           Licensed Independent         Therapist         \$ 60.71           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.89           Licensed Independent         \$ 58.24           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 72.80           Licensed Independent         \$ 99.853           Therapist         \$ 16.37           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 20.47           Licensed Independent         \$ 17.55           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 21.95           Comparison State is Lower than KY         Comparison State is Lower than KY           Comparison State is Higher than KY         No reimbursement rate found for this code           Both IL and WV use different billing codes	Psychiatrist, MD/DO \$ 112.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.39 \$ 120.30 \$	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	Psychiatrist, MD/DO	Psychiatrist, MD/DO   S   112.39   S   133.80   S   91.58   S   139.36   S   S   138.80   S   S   S   S   S   S   S   S   S	90837         Therapist         \$ 89.91         \$ 133.80         \$ 139.36         \$ 149.68           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 112.39         \$ 133.80         \$ 91.58         \$ 149.68           Bossey         Baselindependent         \$ 60.69         \$ 84.51         \$ 104.52         \$ 76.43           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.86         \$ 90.87         \$ 62.03         \$ 101.90           Licensed Independent         \$ 60.69         \$ 68.99         \$ 69.68         \$ 77.20           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 57.50         \$ 68.99         \$ 46.98         \$ 77.20           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 129.53         \$ 155.37         \$ 122.11         \$ 177.45           Licensed Independent         \$ 129.53         \$ 155.37         \$ 122.11         \$ 177.45           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.89         \$ 95.45         \$ 69.80         \$ 101.11           Licensed Independent         \$ 72.80         \$ 97.79         \$ 97.65         \$ 97.65           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 72.80         \$ 97.79         \$ 97.65         \$ 97.65           Licensed Independent         \$ 16.37         \$ 26.41         \$ 38.48         \$ 20.33           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 20.47         \$ 29.26         \$ 33.70 </td <td>  90837</td> <td>  Psychiatrist, MD/DO   S   112.39   S   133.80   S   149.68   145.54    </td> <td>  Psychiatrist, MD/DO   S   112.39   S   138.80   S   149.68   S   149.68   S   145.54   S   S   S   S   S   S   S   S   S  </td> <td>90837         Therapist         \$ 89.91         \$ 119.65         \$ 139.36         \$ 112.26         \$ 109.16         \$ 115.75           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 112.39         \$ 133.80         \$ 91.58         \$ 149.68         \$ 145.54         \$ 135.71           90834         Therapist         \$ 60.69         \$ 84.51         \$ 104.52         \$ 76.43         \$ 74.05         \$ 78.63           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.86         \$ 90.87         \$ 62.03         \$ 101.90         \$ 98.73         \$ 92.51           Uccensed Independent         \$ 46.00         \$ 69.68         \$ 57.90         \$ 56.09         \$ 60.49           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 57.50         \$ 68.99         \$ 46.98         \$ 77.20         \$ 74.78         \$ 71.16           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 129.53         134.29         \$ 139.36         \$ 133.09         \$ 123.35         \$ 125.28           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 129.53         155.37         \$ 122.11         \$ 17.45         \$ 164.46         \$ 147.39           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.89         \$ 95.45         \$ 69.80         \$ 101.11         \$ 98.37         \$ 113.66           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 72.80         \$ 97.79         \$ 75.32         \$ 73.24         \$ 70.40&lt;</td> <td>90837         Therapist         \$ 89.91         \$ 119.65         \$ 13.33.60         \$ 112.26         \$ 10.16         \$ 15.57.7         \$           90834         Licensed Independent Therapist         \$ 60.69         \$ 84.51         \$ 104.52         \$ 76.43         \$ 74.05         \$ 78.63         \$           90834         Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.86         \$ 90.87         \$ 60.69         \$ 60.69         \$ 60.69         \$ 60.69         \$ 60.03         \$ 104.52         \$ 76.43         \$ 74.05         \$ 78.63         \$           90832         Therapist         \$ 46.00         \$ 61.10         \$ 69.68         \$ 77.20         \$ 74.78         \$ 71.10         \$           90791         Therapist         \$ 103.63         \$ 134.29         \$ 139.36         \$ 133.09         \$ 123.35         \$ 125.28         \$           90847         Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 129.53         \$ 155.37         \$ 129.11         \$ 177.45         \$ 164.46         \$ 147.39         \$           90847         Therapist         \$ 60.71         \$ 94.71         \$ 151.36         \$ 75.83         73.78         \$ 96.53         \$           90846         Therapist         \$ 58.24         \$ 88.87         \$ 151.36         \$ 73.24         \$ 70.40</td> <td>90837         Therapist         \$ 89.91         \$ 119.65         \$ 139.36         \$ 112.26         \$ 109.16         \$ 115.35         \$ 112.27           Psychiatrist, MD/Do         \$ 112.39         \$ 133.80         \$ 91.58         \$ 149.68         \$ 145.54         \$ 135.71         \$ 166.32           90834         Therapist         \$ 60.69         \$ 84.51         \$ 104.52         \$ 76.43         \$ 74.05         \$ 78.63         \$ 76.32           90832         Licensed Independent Therapist         \$ 46.00         \$ 61.10         \$ 69.68         \$ 57.90         \$ 56.09         \$ 60.49         \$ 57.69           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 57.50         \$ 68.99         \$ 46.98         \$ 77.20         \$ 74.78         \$ 71.16         \$ 85.46           90791         Therapist         \$ 103.63         \$ 134.29         \$ 139.36         \$ 133.09         \$ 123.35         \$ 125.28         \$ 133.48           90847         Therapist         \$ 60.71         \$ 94.71         \$ 151.36         \$ 75.83         \$ 96.53         \$ 73.78         \$ 96.53         \$ 112.67           90847         Therapist         \$ 60.71         \$ 94.71         \$ 151.36         \$ 75.83         \$ 96.53         \$ 73.28         \$ 97.09         \$ 97.00         \$ 97.00         &lt;</td> <td>90837   Therapist   \$ 89.91   \$ 119.65   \$ 139.36   \$ 112.26   \$ 109.16   \$ 115.35   \$ 112.27   \$ 1</td>	90837	Psychiatrist, MD/DO   S   112.39   S   133.80   S   149.68   145.54	Psychiatrist, MD/DO   S   112.39   S   138.80   S   149.68   S   149.68   S   145.54   S   S   S   S   S   S   S   S   S	90837         Therapist         \$ 89.91         \$ 119.65         \$ 139.36         \$ 112.26         \$ 109.16         \$ 115.75           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 112.39         \$ 133.80         \$ 91.58         \$ 149.68         \$ 145.54         \$ 135.71           90834         Therapist         \$ 60.69         \$ 84.51         \$ 104.52         \$ 76.43         \$ 74.05         \$ 78.63           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.86         \$ 90.87         \$ 62.03         \$ 101.90         \$ 98.73         \$ 92.51           Uccensed Independent         \$ 46.00         \$ 69.68         \$ 57.90         \$ 56.09         \$ 60.49           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 57.50         \$ 68.99         \$ 46.98         \$ 77.20         \$ 74.78         \$ 71.16           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 129.53         134.29         \$ 139.36         \$ 133.09         \$ 123.35         \$ 125.28           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 129.53         155.37         \$ 122.11         \$ 17.45         \$ 164.46         \$ 147.39           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.89         \$ 95.45         \$ 69.80         \$ 101.11         \$ 98.37         \$ 113.66           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 72.80         \$ 97.79         \$ 75.32         \$ 73.24         \$ 70.40<	90837         Therapist         \$ 89.91         \$ 119.65         \$ 13.33.60         \$ 112.26         \$ 10.16         \$ 15.57.7         \$           90834         Licensed Independent Therapist         \$ 60.69         \$ 84.51         \$ 104.52         \$ 76.43         \$ 74.05         \$ 78.63         \$           90834         Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 75.86         \$ 90.87         \$ 60.69         \$ 60.69         \$ 60.69         \$ 60.69         \$ 60.03         \$ 104.52         \$ 76.43         \$ 74.05         \$ 78.63         \$           90832         Therapist         \$ 46.00         \$ 61.10         \$ 69.68         \$ 77.20         \$ 74.78         \$ 71.10         \$           90791         Therapist         \$ 103.63         \$ 134.29         \$ 139.36         \$ 133.09         \$ 123.35         \$ 125.28         \$           90847         Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 129.53         \$ 155.37         \$ 129.11         \$ 177.45         \$ 164.46         \$ 147.39         \$           90847         Therapist         \$ 60.71         \$ 94.71         \$ 151.36         \$ 75.83         73.78         \$ 96.53         \$           90846         Therapist         \$ 58.24         \$ 88.87         \$ 151.36         \$ 73.24         \$ 70.40	90837         Therapist         \$ 89.91         \$ 119.65         \$ 139.36         \$ 112.26         \$ 109.16         \$ 115.35         \$ 112.27           Psychiatrist, MD/Do         \$ 112.39         \$ 133.80         \$ 91.58         \$ 149.68         \$ 145.54         \$ 135.71         \$ 166.32           90834         Therapist         \$ 60.69         \$ 84.51         \$ 104.52         \$ 76.43         \$ 74.05         \$ 78.63         \$ 76.32           90832         Licensed Independent Therapist         \$ 46.00         \$ 61.10         \$ 69.68         \$ 57.90         \$ 56.09         \$ 60.49         \$ 57.69           Psychiatrist, MD/DO         \$ 57.50         \$ 68.99         \$ 46.98         \$ 77.20         \$ 74.78         \$ 71.16         \$ 85.46           90791         Therapist         \$ 103.63         \$ 134.29         \$ 139.36         \$ 133.09         \$ 123.35         \$ 125.28         \$ 133.48           90847         Therapist         \$ 60.71         \$ 94.71         \$ 151.36         \$ 75.83         \$ 96.53         \$ 73.78         \$ 96.53         \$ 112.67           90847         Therapist         \$ 60.71         \$ 94.71         \$ 151.36         \$ 75.83         \$ 96.53         \$ 73.28         \$ 97.09         \$ 97.00         \$ 97.00         <	90837   Therapist   \$ 89.91   \$ 119.65   \$ 139.36   \$ 112.26   \$ 109.16   \$ 115.35   \$ 112.27   \$ 1



### Relative to peer states selected by DMS, Kentucky still falls short

ervice C																								
	CPT Code	Provider Type	<u>KY</u>		Avg Other State	s <u>AL</u>		<u>FL</u>	GA		IN		MS		NC		<u>0H</u>		SC		VA		WV	<u></u>
								FL-MD							NC-	-MD							wv	/ - MD
0 min Psychothera	90837	Independent Therapist		89.91	\$ 110.86	\$	64.06	\$ 87.48	\$	144.96	\$	109.16	\$	120.38	\$	108.02	\$	115.35	\$	117.43	\$	112.27	\$	129.
		Psychiatrist, MD/DO Licensed	\$	112.39	\$ 142.00	\$	85.41	\$ 121.79	\$	212.22	\$	145.54	\$	133.76	\$	144.02	\$	135.71	\$	161.22	\$	166.32	\$	113.
5 min Psychothera	90834	Independent	\$	60.69	\$ 77.71	\$	43.70	\$ 65.61	\$	108.72	\$	74.05	\$	81.27	\$	73.37	\$	78.63	\$	78.29	\$	76.32	\$	97.
		Psychiatrist, MD/DO Independent		75.86	\$ 97.65	\$	58.26	\$ 82.21	\$	159.17	\$	98.73	\$	90.30	\$	97.83	\$	92.51	\$	107.48	\$	113.06	\$	76.
0 min Psychothera	90832	Therapist	\$	46.00	\$ 53.29	\$	33.45	\$ 43.74	\$	60.40	\$	56.09	\$	61.60	\$	55.51	\$	60.49	\$	39.14	\$	57.69	\$	64.
		Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	57.50	\$ 68.13	\$	44.60	\$ 62.30	\$	88.43	\$	74.78	\$	68.44	\$	74.01	\$	71.16	\$	53.74	\$	85.46	\$	58.
sy. Diagnostic Eval	90791	Independent Therapist		103.63	\$ 131.56	\$	80.12	\$ 126.11	\$	108.72	\$	123.35	\$	129.86	\$	153.87	\$	147.39	\$	161.55	\$	133.48	\$	151.
		Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	129.53	\$ 169.84	\$	106.83	\$ 250.63	\$	159.17	\$	164.46	\$	144.29	\$	205.16	\$	125.28	\$	221.82	\$	197.75	\$	123.
sychotherapy w/ lient present	90847	Independent Therapist		60.71	\$ 77.83	\$	63.00	\$ 87.48	\$	36.24	\$	73.78	\$	81.48	\$	73.58	\$	96.53	\$	112.32	\$	76.05		
		Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	75.89	\$ 110.99	\$	84.00	\$ 81.18	\$	53.06	\$	98.37	\$	90.53	\$	98.10	\$	113.56	\$	301.17	\$	112.67	\$	77.
amily Psytx w/o atient	90846	Independent Therapist		58.24	\$ 74.06	\$	43.50	\$ 87.48	\$	36.24	\$	74.15	\$	78.15	\$	70.56	\$	98.02	\$	112.32	\$	72.95	\$	67.
		Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	72.80	\$ 109.94	\$	58.00		\$	53.06	\$	98.86	\$	86.83	\$	94.08	\$	115.32	\$	301.17	\$	108.08	\$	74.
roup sychotherapy	90853	Independent Therapist		16.37	\$ 21.49	L		\$ 26.92	\$	7.91	\$	19.77	\$	21.90	\$	19.61	\$	31.71	\$	17.48	\$	20.43	\$	27.
		Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	20.47	\$ 24.75	\$	23.00	22.21	\$	11.49	\$	26.36	\$	24.33	\$	26.15	\$	37.31	\$	25.52	\$	30.27	\$	20.
lcohol/Drug buse (SBIRT)	99408	Independent Therapist		17.55	\$ 22.33				\$	31.07	\$	23.91			\$	25.28			\$	19.94	\$	9.65	\$	24.
		Psychiatrist, MD/DO	\$	21.95	\$ 32.38				\$	33.41	\$	31.88			\$	33.71			\$	56.98	\$	14.30	\$	24.
					Comparison Sta																			
					Comparison Sta Comparison Sta																			
					No reimbursem		-		e for th	nis level c	of pro	fessional												

# Kentucky is Not Keeping up with Cost of Care

#### 90837 – 60 min. Individual Therapy

	Associate Level Therapist	Licensed Independent Therapist
2005 Impact Plus	\$78.40/hour	\$78.40/hour
2025 Medicaid	\$78.67/hour	\$89.91/hour

<u>Consumer Price Index (CPI)</u> indicates \$78.40 has the same buying power as \$132.61 today based on the rate in 2005.



#### **Children's Alliance Recommendation:**

Increase Kentucky Medicaid Behavioral Health rates to 100% of Medicare so Kentuckians can have access to care, and we can effectively compete for behavioral health professionals in Kentucky.



## For Additional Information:

