

Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS)

Policy Number: SC15P0049A3

Effective Date: May 1, 2018

Last Update: September 28, 2023

PAYMENT POLICY HISTORY

DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGE
September 28, 2023	Full review completed. Updates made to enrollee eligibility and payment information sections in line with August 2023 DHS publication. Other inconsequential grammar and language adjustments made throughout.
March 2, 2023	Annual policy review is completed. Updates made to provider eligibility criteria (changes published by DHS October 2022). Policy definitions were also updated.
September 19, 2022	Information regarding code-specific procedure CPT® or HCPCS was removed.
August 5, 2021	Annual policy review completed. Grammatical corrections were made the policy. These changes did not impact the technical requirements of the document.
September 11, 2020	Annual policy review. No technical changes were made to the policy. Information was moved to the new UCare format, and as a result some information was reformatted.
June 24, 2019	Provider eligibility requirements for Level I and Level II Certified Peer Specialists were updated based on DHS requirements
May 1, 2019	Annual policy review. The –UD modifier was deleted from H0031 and H0032, and units were updated to indicate services are provided per session. Eligible provider requirements were updated.
May 1, 2018	The ARMHS policy is implemented by UCare.

APPLICABLE PRODUCTS

This policy applies to the products checked below:

UCARE PRODUCT	APPLIES TO
UCare MinnesotaCare	✓
UCare Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+)	✓
UCare Prepaid Medical Assistance (PMAP)	✓
UCare Connect	✓

UCARE PRODUCT	APPLIES TO
UCare Connect +Medicare (When MHCP is the primary payer)	✓
UCare Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) (When MHCP is the primary payer)	✓

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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 This policy is a general guideline and may be superseded by specific provider contract language.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

ARMHS services are rehabilitative and assist the patient to develop retain and enhance psychiatric stability, social competencies, personal and emotional adjust, and independent living and community skills impaired by the symptoms of mental illness. ARMHS also enable a patient to retain stability and functioning if a patient is at risk of losing significant functioning or being admitted to a more restrictive service. The services instruct, assist, and support a member in areas such as medication education and monitoring, and basic social and living skills in mental illness symptom management, household management and employment-related or community living transitions.

This policy outlines the billing and payment guidelines associated with ARMHS services.

POLICY DEFINITIONS

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS)	Means 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.
Basic Living and Social Skills	Means activities that instruct, assist, and support skill areas essential for every day, independent living, including, but not limited to:

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpersonal communications • Community resource utilization and integration • Crisis assistance • Relapse prevention • Budgeting, shopping and healthy lifestyle skills and practices • Cooking and nutrition • Transportation • Medication monitoring • Mental illness symptom management • Household management • Employment-related skills • Transitioning to community living
<p>Certified Peer Specialist (CPS)</p>	<p>Means a trained individual who uses a non-clinical approach that helps patients discover their strengths and develop their own unique recovery goals. The CPS models wellness, personal responsibility, self-advocacy, and hopefulness through appropriate sharing of his or her story based on lived experience. UCare recognizes two levels of certified peer specialists: Level I and Level II.</p> <p>Qualifications</p> <p>Certified Peer Specialist Level I</p> <p>Level I peer specialists must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be at least 21 years old • Have or have had a primary diagnosis of mental illness • Is a current or former recipient of mental health services • Be willing to share their experience of recovery • Successfully completes the DHS approved Certified Peer Specialist training and certification exam • Be certified by the Department of Human Services. <p>Certified Peer Specialist Level II</p> <p>Level II peer specialists must meet all requirement of a Level I CPS and one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is qualified at the Mental Health Practitioner level as defined by Minnesota Statute 245.462, subdivision 17 • Has at least 6,000 hours of supervised experience in the delivery of peer services to persons with mental illness

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has at least 4000 hours of supervised experience in the delivery of services to persons with mental illness and an additional 2000 hours of supervised experience in the delivery of peer services to persons with mental illness.
Certified Peer Specialist Services (CPSS)	Means specific rehabilitative services emphasizing the acquisition, development, and enhancement of skills a person with a mental illness needs to move forward in his or her recovery.
Community Intervention	<p>Means a service of strategies provided on behalf of a patient to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alleviate or reduce barriers to community integration or independent living Minimize the risk of hospitalization or placement in a more restrictive living arrangement
Diagnostic Assessment	Means functional face-to-face evaluation resulting in a complete written assessment that includes clinical considerations and severity of the client's general physical, developmental, family, social, psychiatric, and psychological history, and current condition. The Diagnostic Assessment will also note strengths, vulnerabilities, and needed mental health services.
Individual Treatment Plan (ITP)	Means the person-centered process that focuses on developing a written plan that defines the course of treatment for the patient. The plan is focused on collaboratively determining real-life outcomes with a patient and developing a strategy to achieve those outcomes. The plan establishes goals, measurable objectives, target dates for achieving specific goals, identifies key participants in the process, and the responsible party for each treatment component. In addition, the plan outlines the recommended services based on the patient's diagnostic assessment and other patient specific data needed to aid the patient in their recovery and enhance resiliency. An individual treatment plan should be completed before mental health service delivery begins.
Medication Education Services	<p>Means services provided individually or in groups which focus on educating the patient about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental illness and symptoms; The role and effects of medications in treating symptoms of mental illness; and The side effects of medications. Medication education is coordinated with medication management services and does not duplicate it. <p>Medication education services are provided by physicians, pharmacists, physician assistants, or registered nurses</p>

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Mental Health Practitioner	<p>Means a provider who are not eligible for enrollment, must be under clinical supervision of a mental health professional and must be qualified in <i>at least one</i> of the following five ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Practitioner is qualified through relevant coursework by completing at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours in Behavioral Sciences or related fields and: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has at least 2,000 hours of supervised experience in the delivery of services to adults or children with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mental illness, substance use disorder, ii. Traumatic brain injury or developmental disabilities and completes 30 hours of additional training on mental illness, recovery and resiliency, mental health de-escalation techniques, co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, and psychotropic medications and side effects; or iii. Is fluent in the non-English language of the ethnic group to which at least 50 percent of the practitioner's clients belong, and completes 30 hours of additional training on mental illness, recovery and resiliency, mental health de-escalation techniques, co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, and psychotropic medications and side effects; or iv. Has completed a practicum or internship that required direct interaction with adults or children served, and was focused on behavioral sciences or related fields; or v. Is working in a MHCP-enrolled adult or children's day treatment program. 2. Practitioner is qualified through work experience if the practitioner has either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. At least 4,000 hours of experience in the delivery of services to adults or children with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mental illness, substance use disorder, or ii. Traumatic brain injury or developmental disabilities and completes 30 hours of additional training on mental illness, recovery and resiliency, mental health de-escalation techniques, co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, and psychotropic medications and side effects; b. At least 2,000 hours of work experience and receives treatment supervision at least once per week until meeting the requirement of 4,000 hours in the delivery of services to adults or children with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mental illness, or substance use disorder; or ii. Traumatic brain injury or developmental disabilities and completes 30 hours of additional training on mental illness, recovery and resiliency, mental health de-escalation

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
	<p>techniques, co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, and psychotropic medications and side effects;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Practitioner is qualified if they hold a master’s or other graduate degree in behavioral sciences or related fields. 4. Practitioner is qualified as a vendor of medical care if the practitioner meets the definition of vendor of medical care in Minnesota Statutes, 256B.02, subdivision 7, paragraphs (b) and (c), and is serving a federally recognized tribe. <p>In addition to the above criteria:</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 Professional	<p>Means 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
Mental Health Rehabilitation Worker	<p>Mental Health Rehabilitation workers must have a high school diploma or equivalent and meet one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be fluent in the non-English language or competent in the culture of the ethnic group to which at least 20 percent of the mental health rehabilitation worker's clients belong, or • Have an associate of arts degree, or • Have two years of full-time postsecondary education or a total of 15 semester hours or 23 quarter hours in behavioral sciences or related fields, or • Be a registered nurse, or • Have, within the previous 10 years, three years of personal life experience with mental illness, or

TERM	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have, within the previous 10 years, three years of life experience as a primary caregiver to an adult with a mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance use disorder, or developmental disability, or • Have, within the previous 10 years, 2,000 hours of work experience providing health and human services to individuals <p>Mental health rehabilitation workers under the treatment supervision of a mental health professional or certified rehabilitation specialist may provide rehabilitative mental health services to an adult client according to the client's treatment plan.</p>
Notification	Means the process of informing UCare or their delegates of a specific medical treatment or service prior to billing for certain services. Services that require notification are not subject to review for medical necessity but must be medically necessary and covered within the member's benefit set.
Prior Authorization	Means an approval by UCare or their delegates prior to the delivery of a specific service or treatment. Prior authorization requests require a clinical review by qualified, appropriate professionals to determine if the service or treatment is medically necessary. UCare requires certain services to be authorized before services begin. Services provided without an authorization will be denied.
Transition to Community Living Services	Means services which maintain continuity of contact between the rehabilitation services provider and the patient, and which facilitate discharge from a hospital, residential treatment program under Minnesota Rules, chapter 9505, board and lodging facility, or nursing home.

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

The member must be enrolled in an UCare MHCP product, and meet the following requirements:

- Be 18 years old or older.
- Have a primary diagnosis of mental illness as determined by a [Diagnostic Assessment](#);
- Have a completed [Level of Care \(LOC\)](#) assessment; and
- Have a significant impairment in functioning in three or more areas of the [Functional Assessment](#) domains specified in statute.

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*****Agencies / Entities***

- Each ARMHS provider entity must be certified to provide ARMHS. County-operated entities must receive additional certification from any other counties in which they will provide services.
- Non-county entities must receive additional certification from each county where they provide services.
- Entities providing ARMHS services must be recertified every three (3) years.

Eligible ARMHS Providers

The following individual mental health providers are eligible to provide ARMHS:

- Mental health professional
- Certified rehabilitation specialist
- Mental health practitioner
- Clinical trainee
- Mental health rehabilitation worker
- Certified peer specialist*

*Mental health rehabilitation workers (MHRW) and certified peer specialist (CPS) level 1s cannot develop a Functional assessment (FA), level of care assessment, or individual treatment plan (ITP). MHRWs and CPS 1s can implement ITP interventions and develop a progress note.

The following providers are eligible to provide medication education services under ARMHS:

- Physician
- Registered nurse
- Physician assistant
- Pharmacist

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®) 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
HM	Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Worker or Mental Health Behavioral Aide.
HQ	Group Modality
TS	Adult Diagnostic Review or Update
U3	ARMHS transitioning to community living

CPT and/or HCPCS Code(s)

CPT AND/OR HCPCS CODE(S)	MODIFIER(S)	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
H2017		Basic living and social skills – individual; mental health professional, certified rehab specialist, clinical trainee, or practitioner

CPT AND/OR HCPCS CODE(S)	MODIFIER(S)	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
H2017	HM	Basic living and social skills - individual; mental health rehabilitation worker
H2017	HQ	Basic living and social skills - group; mental health professional, certified rehab specialist, clinical trainee, practitioner, or rehabilitation worker
H2017	U3	Basic living and social skills, transitioning to community living (TCL), mental health professional, certified rehab specialist, clinical trainee, or practitioner
H2017	U3, HM	Basic skills, transitioning to community living (TCL) by a mental health rehabilitation worker
90882		Environmental or community intervention, mental health professional, certified rehab specialist, clinical trainee, or practitioner
90882	HM	Environmental or community intervention, mental health rehabilitation worker
90882	U3	Environmental or community intervention; mental health professional, certified rehab specialist, clinical trainee, or practitioner transition to community living (TCL) intervention
90882	U3, HM	Environmental or community intervention; transition to community living intervention, mental health rehabilitation worker
H0031		Mental health assessment, by non-physician
H0031	TS	Mental health assessment, by non-physician, follow-up service (review or update)
H0032		Mental health service plan development by non-physician
H0032	TS	Mental health service plan development by non-physician, follow-up services (review or update)
H0034		Medication education, individual: MD, RN, PA, or pharmacist
H0034	HQ	Medication education, group setting

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Revenue Codes

Not applicable. This policy addresses the professional billing of ARMHS.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Covered Services

The following services are considered billable ARMHS services:

- Basic living and social skills
- Certified peer specialist services
- Community intervention
- Functional Assessment
- Individual treatment plan
- Medication education
- Transition to community living services

All covered services are provided face to face except community intervention. Documentation of activities is included in the covered service and must not be billed separately.

Non-Covered Services

The following services are not covered Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services:

- Transportation services
- Services provided and billed by providers not enrolled to provide ARMHS
- ARMHS performed by volunteers
- Provider performance of household tasks, chores, or related activities, such as laundering clothes, moving the member's household, housekeeping, and grocery shopping
- Time spent "on call" and not delivering services to members
- Activities that are primarily social or recreational, rather than rehabilitative
- Job-specific skills services such as on-the-job training
- Time included in case management services
- Outreach services to potential members
- Room and board services

Payment Increases and 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 are:

- 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

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)

BILLING REQUIREMENTS AND DIRECTIONS

Outlined below are the billing guidelines for ARMHS services:

- Submit claims using the 837-P format or the electronic equivalent;
- Enter the treating provider’s NPI number on each claim line; and
- Use appropriate CPT modifiers if an ARMHS service is provided on the same day but at different times by any of the following:
 - The same ARMHS provider
 - Different ARMHS providers within the same ARMHS provider organization
 - Different ARMHS provider organizations working concurrently with an ARMHS recipient.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION, NOTIFICATION AND THRESHOLD INFORMATION

Prior Authorization and Notification Requirements

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

Threshold Information

Not applicable.

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
SC14P0004A3	Diagnostic Assessment

UCare payment policies are updated from time to time. The most current UCare payment policies can be found [here](#).

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, ARMHS](#)

[Minnesota Statutes 256B.0623](#)

[Minnesota Statutes 245I.011.5](#)

[Minnesota Statutes 245I.10](#)

[Minnesota Rule 9505.2175, subpart 1 & 2](#)

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.”