



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH  
SECRETARY

DAVE RICHARD  
DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH  
Secretary

FROM: Dave Richard  
Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance

SUBJECT: State Plan Amendment  
Title XIX, Social Security Act  
Transmittal #2018-0003

DATE: May 31, 2018

DR/ST

Please find attached an amendment for North Carolina's State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act for the Medical Assistance Program. The affected pages are Attachment 3.1-A.1, Page 7c.9, Attachment 3.1-A.1, Page 7c.9d, Attachment 3.1-A.1, Page 7c.9e, Attachment 3.1-A.1, Page 7c.11, Attachment 3.1-A.1, Page 15a.2-E and Attachment 3.1-A.1, Page 15a.15.

This state plan amendment will allow all years of both pre-graduation and post-graduation full time Mental Health, Developmental Disability, and Substance Abuse Services (MH/DD/SAS) experience to apply to the qualifications required for MH/DD/SAS Qualified Professionals.

This amendment is effective April 1, 2018.

Your approval of this state plan amendment is requested. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Teresa Smith or me at 919-855-4116.

DR:ts

State Plan Under Title XIX of the Social Security Act  
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4.b.(8) **Diagnostic, Screening, Treatment, Preventive and Rehabilitative Services (continued)**  
**Description of Services**

(j) **Ambulatory Detoxification**

Ambulatory Detoxification is an organized service available to children and adults, delivered by trained practitioners who provide medically supervised evaluations, detoxification and referral services according to a predetermined schedule. Medical supervision consists of a physician available 24 hours a day by telephone, a registered nurse who monitors the recipient's progress and medication, and appropriately licensed and credentialed staff to administer medications in accordance with physician orders. Ambulatory Detoxification service components include outpatient services delivered by trained clinicians, who provide medically supervised evaluation, detoxification and referral services according to a predetermined schedule. Such services are provided in regularly scheduled sessions. The services are designed to treat the patient's level of clinical severity and to achieve safe and comfortable withdrawal from mood-altering drugs (including alcohol) and to effectively facilitate the patient's transition into ongoing treatment and recovery. These services are provided in a licensed facility with regularly scheduled sessions by a Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS), Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS), Qualified Professional (QP) or Associate Professional (AP). A CCS is an individual who is certified as such by the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Certification Board. A LCAS is certified as such by the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Certification Board. The Qualified Professional is:

(a) an individual who holds a license, provisional license, certificate, registration or permit issued by the governing board regulating a human service profession, except a registered nurse who is licensed to practice in the State of North Carolina by the North Carolina Board of Nursing who also has four years of full-time accumulated experience in MH/DD/SA with the population served; or

(b) a graduate of a college or university with a Master's degree in a human service field and has one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree accumulated MH/DD/SA experience with the population served, or a substance abuse professional who has one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree accumulated supervised experience in alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or

(c) a graduate of a college or university with a bachelor's degree in a human service field and has two years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor's degree accumulated MH/DD/SA experience with the population served, or a substance abuse professional who has two years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor's degree accumulated supervised experience in alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or

(d) a graduate of a college or university with a bachelor's degree in a field other than human services and has four years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor's degree accumulated MH/DD/SA experience with the population served, or a substance abuse professional who has four years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor's degree accumulated supervised experience in alcoholism and drug abuse counseling.

An AP within the mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services (MH/DD/SAs) system of care is a:

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Effective Date: 04/01/2018

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4.b.(8) **Diagnostic, Screening, Treatment, Preventive and Rehabilitative Services (continued)**  
**Description of Services**

(k) Professional Treatment Services in Facility-Based Crisis Program – Children and Adolescents  
(continued)

Qualified Professional (QP) means, within the MH/DD/SAS system of care:

- (a) an individual who holds a license, provisional license, certificate, registration or permit issued by the governing board regulating a human service profession, except a registered nurse who is licensed to practice in the State of North Carolina by the North Carolina Board of Nursing who also has four years of full-time accumulated experience in MH/DD/SAS with the population served.

The Licensed Qualified Professional will be a Licensed Professional (LP) holding a valid license issued by the governing board regulating a human service profession in the State of North Carolina. Individuals licensed as a Clinical Addiction Specialist, Clinical Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Counselor, Psychiatrist, or Psychologist. The specific requirements for each of the above licensed professionals are listed below.

- Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist means an individual who is licensed as such by the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board.
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker means a social worker who is licensed as such by the N.C. Social Work Certification and Licensure Board.
- Licensed marriage and family therapist means an individual who is licensed as such by the North Carolina Marriage and Family Licensing Board.
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) means a counselor who is licensed as such by the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors.
- Psychiatrist means an individual who is licensed to practice medicine in the State of North Carolina and who has completed a training program in psychiatry accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.
- Psychologist means an individual who is licensed to practice psychology in the State of North Carolina as either a licensed psychologist or a licensed psychological associate, or

If not licensed, the QP will be:

- (b) a graduate of a college or university with a Master's degree in a human service field and has one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree accumulated MH/DD/SAS experience with the population served, or a substance abuse professional who has one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree accumulated supervised experience in alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or
- (c) a graduate of a college or university with a bachelor's degree in a human service field and has two years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor's degree accumulated MH/DD/SAS experience with the population served, or a substance abuse professional who has two years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor's degree accumulated supervised experience in alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or

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4.b.(8) **Diagnostic, Screening, Treatment, Preventive and Rehabilitative Services (continued)**  
**Description of Services**

(k) Professional Treatment Services in Facility-Based Crisis Program – Children and Adolescents  
(continued)

(d) a graduate of a college or university with a bachelor's degree in a field other than human services and has four years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor's degree accumulated MH/DD/SAS experience with the population served, or a substance abuse professional who has four years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor's degree accumulated supervised experience in alcoholism and drug abuse counseling.

Degrees in a human service field, include but are not limited to, the following degrees: psychology, social work, mental health counseling, rehabilitation counseling, addictions, psychiatric nursing, special education and therapeutic recreation.

The Facility Based Crisis program must address the age, behavior, and developmental functioning of each recipient to ensure safety, health and appropriate treatment interventions within the program milieu. The facility must ensure the physical separation of children from adolescents by living quarters, common areas, and in treatment, etc. If adults and children are receiving services in the same building, the facility must ensure complete physical separation between adults and children. All facilities serving both children and adults shall have 16 beds or less. Each facility must be staffed at a minimum of a psychiatrist, a registered nurse (24 hours/day), and an additional licensed professional. A physician is available 24/7 and must conduct a psychiatric assessment within 24 hours of admission. A registered nurse must conduct a nursing assessment on admission and oversee the monitoring of patient's progress and medications. A licensed professional must conduct a comprehensive clinical assessment upon admission. Treatment interventions may be performed by all staff based on their qualifications and/or scope of practice. Aftercare planning may be performed by any Qualified Professional.

This service must be ordered by an MD, NP, PA or PhD psychologist. Prior approval will be required via the statewide UR vendor or by an approved LME contracted with the Medicaid Agency and meeting the same standards and requirements as the statewide vendor. This initial prior approval process will ensure that the level of the service is appropriate and concurrent reviews will determine the ongoing medical necessity for the service or the need to move up or down the continuum of services to another level of care. Documentation must include: a service note that includes the recipient's name, Medicaid identification number, date of service, purpose of contact, describes the provider's interventions, includes the time spent performing the interventions, effectiveness of the intervention, and the signature of the staff providing the service. Facility Based Crisis is not available for:

- a. room and board services;
- b. educational, vocational and job training services;
- c. habilitation services;
- d. services to inmates in public institutions as defined in 42 CFR §435.1010;
- e. services to individuals residing in institutions for mental diseases as described in 42 CFR§435.1010;
- f. recreational and social activities; and
- g. services that must be covered elsewhere in the state Medicaid plan.

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4.b.(9) **Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services (continued)**

(d) **Provider Qualifications for Staff Employed by Agencies Enrolled with Medicaid**

(iii) **Qualified Professional (QP):**

“Qualified Professional” within the mental health and substance abuse system means:

- an individual who holds a license, provisional license, certificate, registration or permit issued by the governing board regulating a human service profession, except a registered nurse who is licensed to practice in the State of North Carolina by the North Carolina Board of Nursing, who also has four years of full-time accumulated experience in MH/SA with the population served; or
- a graduate of a college or university with a Master’s degree in a human service field and one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree experience with the population served or a substance abuse professional with one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree accumulated supervised experience in alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or
- a graduate of college or university with a bachelor’s degree in a human service field and two years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor’s degree experience with the population served or a substance abuse professional who has two years full-time, pre- or post-bachelor’s degree accumulated supervised alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or
- a graduate of a college or university with a bachelor’s degree in a field other than human services with four years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor’s degree accumulated MH/SA experience with the population served.

This category includes Substance Abuse Professional, Certified Substance Abuse Counselors (CSAC), Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS), Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) \*

The full descriptions of categories of providers are found in the North Carolina Administrative Code.

**Supervision is provided as described below:**

Covered services are provided to recipients by agencies directly enrolled in the Medicaid program which employ qualified professionals, associate professional and paraprofessionals. Medically necessary services delivered by associate and paraprofessionals are delivered under the supervision and direction of the qualified professional. The qualified professional personally works with consumers to develop the person centered individualized treatment plan and meets with consumers periodically during the course of treatment to monitor the services being delivered and to review the need for continued services. The supervising qualified professional assumes professional responsibility for the services provided by associate and paraprofessionals and spends as much time as necessary directly supervising services to ensure that recipients are receiving services in a safe and efficient manner in accordance with accepted standards of practice. The terms of the qualified professional’s employment with the directly enrolled agency providing service ensures that the qualified professional is adequately supervising the associate and paraprofessionals. The agencies ensure that supervisory ratios are reasonable and ethical and provide adequate opportunity for the qualified professional to effectively supervise the associate and paraprofessional staff assigned. Documentation is kept to support the supervision provided to associate and paraprofessional staff in the delivery of medically necessary services.

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13. D. Diagnostic, Screening, Treatment, Preventive and Rehabilitative Services (Continued)

- registered nurse who is licensed to practice in the State of North Carolina by the North Carolina Board of Nursing with less than four years of full-time accumulated experience in mental health or substance abuse with the population served. Supervision shall be provided by a qualified professional with the population served until the individual meets four years of experience.
- (iii) Qualified Professional (QP)
- “Qualified Professional” within the mental health and substance abuse system means:
- an individual who holds a license, provisional license, certificate, registration or permit issued by the governing board regulating a human service profession, except a registered nurse who is licensed to practice in the State of North Carolina by the North Carolina Board of Nursing, who also has four years of full-time accumulated experience in MH/SA with the population served; or
  - a graduate of a college or university with a Master’s degree in a human service field and one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree experience with the population served or a substance abuse professional with one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree accumulated supervised experience in alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or
  - a graduate of college or university with a bachelor’s degree in a human service field and two years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor’s degree experience with the population served or a substance abuse professional who has two years full-time, pre- or post-bachelor’s degree accumulated supervised alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or
  - a graduate of a college or university with a bachelor’s degree in a field other than human services with four years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor’s degree accumulated MH/SA experience with the population served.

This category includes Substance Abuse Professional, Certified Substance Abuse Counselors (CSAC), Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS), Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS)\*

The full descriptions of categories of providers are found in the North Carolina Administrative Code.

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13. E. Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services (continued)  
Provider Qualifications for Staff Employed by Agencies Enrolled with Medicaid

(iii) Qualified Professional (QP)

“Qualified Professional” within the mental health and substance abuse system means:

- an individual who holds a license, provisional license, certificate, registration or permit issued by the governing board regulating a human service profession, except a registered nurse who is licensed to practice in the State of North Carolina by the North Carolina Board of Nursing, who also has four years of full-time accumulated experience in MH/SA with the population served; or
- a graduate of a college or university with a Master’s degree in a human service field and one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree experience with the population served or a substance abuse professional with one year of full-time, pre- or post-graduate degree accumulated supervised experience in alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or
- a graduate of college or university with a bachelor’s degree in a human service field and two years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor’s degree experience with the population served or a substance abuse professional who has two years full-time, pre- or post-bachelor’s degree accumulated supervised alcoholism and drug abuse counseling; or
- a graduate of a college or university with a bachelor’s degree in a field other than human services with four years of full-time, pre- or post-bachelor’s degree accumulated MH/SA experience with the population served.

This category includes Substance Abuse Professional, Certified Substance Abuse Counselors (CSAC), Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS), Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) \*

The full descriptions of categories of providers are found in the North Carolina Administrative Code

Supervision is provided as described below:

Covered services are provided to recipients by agencies directly enrolled in the Medicaid program which employ qualified professionals, associate professional and paraprofessionals. Medically necessary services delivered by associate and paraprofessionals are delivered under the supervision and direction of the qualified professional. The qualified professional personally works with consumers to develop the person centered individualized treatment plan and meets with consumers periodically during the course of treatment to monitor the services being delivered and to review the need for continued services. The supervising qualified professional assumes professional responsibility for the services provided by associate and paraprofessionals and spends as much time as necessary directly supervising services to ensure that recipients are receiving services in a safe and efficient manner in accordance with accepted standards of practice. The terms of the qualified professional’s employment with the directly enrolled agency providing service ensures that the qualified professional is adequately supervising the associate and paraprofessionals. The agencies ensure that supervisory ratios are reasonable and ethical and provide adequate opportunity for the qualified professional to effectively supervise the associate and paraprofessional staff assigned. Documentation is kept to support the supervision provided to associate and paraprofessional staff in the delivery of medically necessary services.

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