

## Mental health practitioner

The definition of mental health practitioner was changed in the 2018 Minnesota legislative session. The new definition is presented below. The new definition received approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid on January 7, 2019 for billing practitioner level services under Medical Assistance (MA), retroactive to June, 2018. Minnesota Health Care Programs is in the process of revising the MHCP manual and is working on notification and guidance for providers.

### Statute 245,462, Subdivision 17. Mental health practitioner.

(a) "Mental health practitioner" means a person providing services to adults with mental illness or children with emotional disturbance who is qualified in at least one of the ways described in paragraphs (b) to (g). A mental health practitioner for a child client must have training working with children. A mental health practitioner for an adult client must have training working with adults.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, a practitioner is qualified through relevant coursework if the practitioner completes at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours in behavioral sciences or related fields and:

(1) has at least 2,000 hours of supervised experience in the delivery of services to adults or children with:

(i) mental illness, substance use disorder, or emotional disturbance; or

(ii) traumatic brain injury or developmental disabilities and completes training on mental illness, recovery from mental illness, mental health de-escalation techniques, co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, and psychotropic medications and side effects;

(2) is fluent in the non-English language of the ethnic group to which at least 50 percent of the practitioner's clients belong, completes 40 hours of training in the delivery of services to adults with mental illness or children with emotional disturbance, and receives clinical supervision from a mental health professional at least once a week until the requirement of 2,000 hours of supervised experience is met; or

(3) is working in a day treatment program under section 245.4712, subdivision 2; or

(4) has completed a practicum or internship that (1) requires direct interaction with adults or children served, and (2) is focused on behavioral sciences or related fields.

(c) For purposes of this subdivision, a practitioner is qualified through work experience if the person:

(1) has at least 4,000 hours of supervised experience in the delivery of services to adults or children with:

(i) mental illness, substance use disorder, or emotional disturbance; or

(ii) traumatic brain injury or developmental disabilities and completes training on mental illness, recovery from mental illness, mental health de-escalation techniques, co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, and psychotropic medications and side effects; or

(2) has at least 2,000 hours of supervised experience in the delivery of services to adults or children with:

(i) mental illness, emotional disturbance, or substance use disorder, and receives clinical supervision as required by applicable statutes and rules from a mental health professional at least once a week until the requirement of 4,000 hours of supervised experience is met; or

(ii) traumatic brain injury or developmental disabilities; completes training on mental illness, recovery from mental illness, mental health de-escalation techniques, co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, and psychotropic medications and side effects; and receives clinical supervision as required by applicable statutes and rules at least once a week from a mental health professional until the requirement of 4,000 hours of supervised experience is met.

(d) For purposes of this subdivision, a practitioner is qualified through a graduate student internship if the practitioner is a graduate student in behavioral sciences or related fields and is formally assigned by an accredited college or university to an agency or facility for clinical training.

(e) For purposes of this subdivision, a practitioner is qualified by a bachelor's or master's degree if the practitioner:

(1) holds a master's or other graduate degree in behavioral sciences or related fields; or

(2) holds a bachelor's degree in behavioral sciences or related fields and completes a practicum or internship that (1) requires direct interaction with adults or children served, and (2) is focused on behavioral sciences or related fields.

(f) For purposes of this subdivision, a practitioner is qualified as a vendor of medical care if the practitioner meets the definition of vendor of medical care in section 256B.02, subdivision 7, paragraphs (b) and (c), and is serving a federally recognized tribe.

(g) For purposes of medical assistance coverage of diagnostic assessments, explanations of findings, and psychotherapy under section 256B.0625, subdivision 65, a mental health practitioner working as a clinical trainee means that the practitioner's clinical supervision experience is helping the practitioner gain knowledge and skills necessary to practice effectively and independently. This may include supervision of direct practice, treatment team collaboration, continued professional learning, and job management. The practitioner must also:

(1) comply with requirements for licensure or board certification as a mental health professional, according to the qualifications under Minnesota Rules, part 9505.0371, subpart 5, item A, including supervised practice in the delivery of mental health services for the treatment of mental illness; or

(2) 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 according to the qualifications under Minnesota Rules, part 9505.0371, subpart 5, item A.

(h) For purposes of this subdivision, "behavioral sciences or related fields" has the meaning given in section 256B.0623, subdivision 5, paragraph (d). [see below]

(i) Notwithstanding the licensing requirements established by a health-related licensing board, as defined in section 214.01, subdivision 2, this subdivision supersedes any other statute or rule.

[256B.0623, Subdivision 5, paragraph \(d\)](#) states:

For purposes of this subdivision, "behavioral sciences or related fields" means an education from an accredited college or university and includes but is not limited to social work, psychology, sociology, community counseling, family social science, child development, child psychology, community mental health, addiction counseling, counseling and guidance, special education, and other fields as approved by the commissioner.