PROVIDER advisory

Medicare Advantage and QUEST Integration
Reimbursement Guidelines for LMFT and LMHC
Behavioral Health Providers

05/16/2019

Dear Provider,

AlohaCare is issuing this provider advisory to communicate CMS/Medicare and State of Hawaii Med-QUEST (MQD) reimbursement guidelines for Licensed Marriage Family Therapist (LMFT) and Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) provider types.

**Medicare Advantage Reimbursement**
Per CMS guidelines (Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15), outpatient mental health care can only be provided by a state-licensed clinical psychiatrist (PhD), clinical psychologist (PsyD), clinical social worker (LCSW), clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other Medicare-qualified mental health care professional.

LMFT and LMHC providers are not Medicare-qualified providers. Therefore, these provider types are not eligible to bill for services, or receive reimbursement under AlohaCare’s Medicare Advantage line of business. This is applicable to both private practice providers and providers affiliated with our participating Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Centers (RHC), and group clinics.

**Medicaid (QUEST Integration) Reimbursement**

**Private Practice and Clinic Providers:** Services provided by “other health care providers” such as LMFT and LMHC providers, are eligible providers under MQD guidelines, and are eligible for Fee-For-Service (FFS) reimbursement.

**FQHC Providers:** MQD provides reimbursement guidelines per the Medicaid Provider Manual for “other health care providers” depending on if they are licensed or un-licensed under supervision. In both scenarios, LMFT and LMHC provider types are not eligible for Prospective Payment System (PPS) reimbursement.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider License Status</th>
<th>Eligible Reimbursement</th>
<th>MQD Reference</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed LMFT/LMHC</td>
<td>100% FFS for provider type</td>
<td>Medicaid Provider Manual Chapter 21 Section 21.2.1</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Un-licensed</em> LMFT/LMHC under supervision</td>
<td>50% FFS for supervising provider type when conditions are met</td>
<td>Medicaid Provider Manual Chapter 21 Section 21.2.3 and ACS Memo M12-01 dated January 5, 2012</td>
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Please note that AlohaCare follows CMS and MQD guidelines, and will issue reimbursement in accordance with these guidelines.

We encourage our providers to utilize the tools and resources available via the secure provider portal on [www.alohacare.org](http://www.alohacare.org) to determine eligibility and other insurance coverage prior to rendering services to AlohaCare members.

Thank you for the services you provide to our members. Please contact AlohaCare’s Provider Relations Department at (808) 973-1650 or toll free at 1-800-434-1002 with questions.