



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J344

Date: November 01, 2019

To: Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

From: Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, NC Medicaid
Kathy Nichols, Assistant Director for Services and Supports, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: Peer Support Services State Plan Amendment and Policy Update

The Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) for Peer Support Services (PSS) was approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on October 23, 2019 with an effective date of July 1, 2019. The clinical coverage policy will be posted with an effective date of Nov. 1, 2019.

Peer Support Services policy requirements are as follows:

- Program is under the direction of a full-time Qualified Professional (QP).
- Maximum program staff ratios: QP to Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) is 1:8; CPSS to beneficiary is 1:15; and CPSS Group Facilitator to beneficiary is 1:12 for Peer Support Group.
- Peer Support Specialist must be certified by the NC Peer Support Specialist Certification Program.
- Beneficiaries are eligible for twenty-four (24) unmanaged units once per episode of care in a state fiscal year.
- Prior approval is required for Peer Support Services provided beyond the unmanaged unit limitation.
- A service order must be signed by a physician or other licensed clinician, per his or her scope of practice, prior to or on the first day service is rendered.
- Comprehensive Clinical Assessment is required to determine medical necessity of service.
- Clinical information must be obtained and documented in the beneficiary's Person-Centered Plan.
- PSS may be provided in the beneficiary's place of residence, community, in an emergency department, or in an office setting.
- PSS is not a first responder service. PSS providers shall coordinate with other service providers to ensure "first responder" coverage and crisis response.

1

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Ethical concerns should be submitted to DMHDDSAS Consumer Rights Team for review. If validated, additional review and action may be taken by the State.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this communication bulletin, please contact June Freeman at 919-527-7646 or e-mail June.Freeman@dhhs.nc.gov or contact Stacy Smith at 919-715-2368 or e-mail Stacy.Smith@dhhs.nc.gov.

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