

Certified Peer Specialist Services

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Overview

Certified Peer Specialist Services are specific rehabilitative services emphasizing the acquisition, development and enhancement of skills needed by an individual with a mental illness to move forward in their recovery. These services are self-directed and person-centered with a focus on recovery. Certified Peer Specialist Services are identified in an individualized treatment plan and are characterized by a partnering approach between the certified peer specialist and the person who receives the services.

The Role of the Certified Peer Specialist

A CPS uses a non-clinical approach that helps Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) members 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.

Eligible Providers

Certified peer specialists are employed in agencies approved to provide peer services within the following mental health rehabilitation services:

- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- Intensive Residential Rehabilitative Services (IRTS)
- Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS)
- Crisis Response Services

Qualifications

Certified Peer Specialist Level I

Level I certified peer specialists must meet the following criteria:

- Be aged 18 or older
- Have or have had a diagnosis of mental illness
- Is a current or former recipient of mental health services
- Successfully completes the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) approved [Certified Peer Specialist training and certification exam](#)

Level II certified peer specialists must meet all requirements of a Level I certified peer specialist and is qualified as a [mental health practitioner](#).

Scope

Certified peer specialists under [treatment supervision](#) of a mental health professional or certified rehabilitation specialists must:

- Provide individualized peer support to the member
- Promote the member's recovery goals, self-sufficiency, self-advocacy, and development of natural supports
- Support the member's maintenance of skills learned from other services.

Supervision

A CPS Level I must meet all of the following supervision requirements:

- Receive documented monthly individual clinical supervision by a mental health professional during the first 2,000 hours of work

- Have 18 hours of documented field supervision by a mental health professional or mental health practitioner during the first 160 hours of contact work with members and at least six hours of field supervision quarterly during the following year
- Have review and co-signature of charting of recipient contacts during field supervision by a mental health professional or mental health practitioner
- Complete continuing education training of at least 30 hours every two years in areas of recovery, rehabilitative services and peer support

A CPS Level II must follow the [supervision requirements](#) for a mental health practitioner.

Eligible Members

Members must meet all of the following to receive peer services:

- Be aged 18 or older
- Receive [ACT](#), [ARMHS](#), [IRTS](#), [Adult Crisis services](#) or be enrolled in a [CCBHC](#)

Authorization Requirements

Authorization is required for more than 300 hours per calendar year combined total of H0038, H0038-U5 and H0038-HQ. Refer to [Authorization](#) for [general authorization](#) policy and procedures.

Billing

Entities eligible to bill for certified peer specialists are:

- ARMHS providers
- Adult crisis service providers

Certified Peer Specialist Services provided within an ACT team or IRTS facilities are included in the daily rate. Do not bill separately for these services.

Certified Peer Specialist Services (CPSS) Benefits				
Code	Mod	Brief Description	Units	Service Limitations
H0038		Self-help/Peer Services by Level I Certified Peer Specialist	15 min.	Authorization is required for more than 300 hours per calendar year combined total of H0038, H0038 U5, and H0038 HQ
	U5	Self-help/Peer Services by Level II Certified Peer Specialist		
	HQ	Self-help/Peer Services in a group setting		

Legal References

[Minnesota Statutes 256B.0615](#) Mental Health Certified Peer Specialist

[Minnesota Statutes 245I.04](#)

[Minnesota Statutes 245I.06](#) Treatment Supervision