

Psychologists as Attending Providers *Q&A Session*



Agenda

- Introduction to Dr. Jennifer Jutte, Associate Medical Director for Psychology
- Basics of the upcoming changes
- Required actions
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Open Q&A session – all questions related to this change are welcome

Jennifer Jutte, PhD, ABPP, MPH

Associate Medical Director for Psychology New Leadership Role That Includes:

Ensure quality care and support providers in achieving that goal.

Convene critical discussions to resolve differences so workers get proper and necessary care.

Provide expertise to inform sound policy development.

Represent workers' compensation in health care policy making and planning discussions across the state.

Provide clinical expertise in the development of occupational health best practices.

Provide medical leadership to help improve the workers' comp system and services.

Develop provider education and outreach resources.

Advise claims staff and ONCs on medically complex claims issues.

*ONC = Occupational Nurse Consultant

Mental Health in Workers' Compensation

- Mental and behavioral healthcare are insufficient across workers' compensation systems
- Labor & Industries is leading the charge to address this issue in several important ways:
 - Researching gaps in mental healthcare while also learning from systems across the United States and internationally
 - Collaborating with the statutory Industrial Insurance Medical Advisory Committee (IIMAC) to address clinical issues
 - Hiring the first psychologist into the Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

What's Changing?

- In 2023, per agency request, legislators introduced HB1197 (RCW 51.08.200)
- Amendment to RCW 51.08.200 changes the definition of “attending provider”
 - Adds state licensed psychologists as attending providers for claims solely for mental health conditions
- What this means for psychologists
 - Parity with medical colleagues
 - Expanded access for underserved patients
 - Allows psychologists to lead care for workers

New Requirements for Psychologists

- WAC 296-20-01010 - All providers who can be attending providers are required to join the Medical Provider Network (MPN).
- The credentialing process ensures high quality providers are delivering care to workers.
- Psychologists must enroll in the MPN to:
 - Provide ongoing treatment (beyond initial visits) for injured workers
 - Be eligible for payments and authorizations
 - Serve in the Attending Provider role

Attending Provider (AP) Role

- Psychologists may serve as the AP on claims solely for mental health conditions
 - No physical conditions are/or have been present
- Role responsibilities
 - Initiate claims solely for mental health conditions and educate workers about their benefits
 - Provide direct patient care and expedite return to work
 - Coordinate workers' care with other providers
 - Define work capabilities and restrictions
 - Report on workers' progress

Important Dates

- June 30, 2025
 - Psychologists must enroll to avoid authorization and payment denials for current care
- After June 30, 2025 you can still join the MPN to treat workers and be an AP, however you may not treat until your application has been approved
- July 1, 2025 change goes into effect
 - Can serve as AP

Available Resources

- [Billing Workshops](#)
- [Medical Aid Rules and Fee Schedules \(MARFS\)](#)
- [Mental Health Quick Reference Card](#)
- [Mental Health Services web page](#)
- [Neuropsychological & Psychological Testing and Evaluation Quick Reference Card](#)
- [Provider Accounts and Credentialing – Enrollment](#)
- Provider Support and Outreach
 - ProviderSupport@Lni.wa.gov
- [Psychologists as AP web page](#)
- PsychologistAP@Lni.wa.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can I treat workers if I'm not part of the MPN?**
 - No. You may not. However, you can provide an initial visit for claims solely for mental health conditions which allows you to file the Report of Accident (ROA - for State Fund claims) or the Self-Insurance Accident Report (SIF-2). If the worker needs treatment or ongoing care, they must transfer to an MPN psychologist.
- **Do I have to be the attending provider to treat a worker?**
 - No. Serving as the attending provider is optional. However, all psychologists must join the MPN to provide treatment beyond the initial visit.
- **Are referrals and authorizations required for mental health initial visits and ongoing care?**
 - Referrals and authorizations are not required for the initial visit. Treatment after the initial visit requires 90-day pre-authorizations where the mental health provider must substantiate the need for continued treatment and request authorization.

Questions?

