



Beyond Healthcare. A Better You.

3128 Highwoods Blvd., Ste. 200
Raleigh, NC 27604

To: NC Clinicians rostered or certified to provide evidence-based, trauma informed psychotherapies

Date: 8/23/2022

Re: Enhanced reimbursement for the provision of behavioral health trauma assessment and treatment services to WellCare of NC members

WellCare of North Carolina (WCNC) intends to improve the quality of services delivered to children and youth experiencing trauma. To that end we are now paying enhanced rates statewide for trauma assessments, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), and Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) delivered by appropriately certified or rostered clinicians. The enhanced rates are designed to compensate clinicians for their expertise and the time required to deliver trauma therapies to full fidelity. Our goal is to improve clinical symptomatology and functional outcomes for children and families (e.g., remain at home, succeed in school, and avoid use of crisis, emergency room, and inpatient services).

Assessments- Two Versions

Assessment Version 1--Trauma Informed Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA)

At a minimum a Trauma Informed CCA must be performed to evaluate the need for and initiate TF-CBT or PCIT services. Trauma Informed CCAs can be initiated by credentialed provider if there is a report of trauma in the history or by report from parent/guardian or referral source.

Trauma Informed CCAs must meet **ALL** of the following standards:

- A CCA that meets the required elements identified in NC Medicaid Clinical Coverage Policy 8C-Outpatient Behavioral Health Services
- Administration of at least one validated trauma measure
- Case conceptualization and treatment recommendations that clearly incorporate the findings of the trauma measure(s) used
- Overall clinical approach of assessing through a trauma “lens”

Recommended- Clinicians administer additional validated measures for depression, anxiety, and behavioral challenges when clinically indicated.

Eligible providers:

- Clinicians who have successfully completed a NC Child Treatment (NC-CTP) learning collaborative for TF-CBT or PCIT and have met the training and practice requirements to be listed on the NC-CTP public facing roster of clinicians



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- Clinicians who are currently fully certified by the National Therapist Certification Program to provide TF-CBT or PCIT
- Clinicians who have successfully completed a Project BEST learning collaborative on TF-CBT through the Medical University of SC (MUSC) and have met the training and practice requirements to be listed on the Project BEST Roster. **Note:** Providers who complete the TF-CBTWeb2.0 self-paced, online training course in isolation are not considered eligible providers for this enhanced reimbursement opportunity.

Assessment Version 2--Trauma Intensive Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA)

Used to evaluate the need for and initiate TF-CBT or PCIT when the following is present:

- Youth has validated trauma history identified by a third party (DSS, Juvenile Justice, Primary Care, School System)

And **at least one** of the following:

- The youth's symptoms and behaviors are currently difficult to manage at home, school, or in other community settings
- The youth is not maintaining stability or making progress toward treatment goals in outpatient therapy
- Need for collaboration and coordination with multiple child-serving organizations, including school, local DSS, and others in order to complete an accurate assessment

Trauma Intensive CCAs must meet the following standards:

- A CCA that meets all the required elements identified in NC Medicaid Clinical Coverage Policy 8C-Outpatient Behavioral Health Services
- A TiCCA or CTIA assessment performed to fidelity that includes all the purveyor's respective model elements
- Assessment must be completed within 30 days of first meeting with Child/Family

Eligible providers:

- Benchmarks NC certified TiCCA clinicians
- Center for Child and Family Health certified CTIA clinicians

Not to exceed one assessment per fiscal year unless significant documented changes in youth's life circumstances or functioning.

Treatment Services

If a Trauma Informed CCA or Trauma Intensive CCA recommends TF-CBT or PCIT, those services can be delivered using outpatient therapy codes with appropriate modifiers.

Eligible Providers:



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- Clinicians who have successfully completed a NC Child Treatment (NC-CTP) learning collaborative for TF-CBT or PCIT and have met the training and practice requirements to be listed on the NC-CTP public facing roster of clinicians
- Clinicians who are currently fully certified by the National Therapist Certification Program to provide TF-CBT or PCIT
- Clinicians who have successfully completed a Project BEST learning collaborative on TF-CBT through the Medical University of SC (MUSC) and have met the training and practice requirements to be listed on the Project BEST roster. **Note:** Providers who complete the TF-CBT*Web2.0* self-paced, online training course in isolation are not considered eligible providers for this enhanced reimbursement opportunity.

Authorization requirements for trauma assessment and services

No prior authorization is required for assessments and treatment (first 20 sessions). Only clinicians actively rostered/certified to deliver trauma assessments (Informed or Intensive versions), or rostered/certified to provide TF-CBT or PCIT treatments may bill WellCare NC established codes with modifiers for trauma services. Submit claims using the codes and modifiers listed below.

Proc/HCPC Codes*

90791 UA (Trauma informed assess)-per event

90791 UB (Trauma intensive assess)-per event

90832 U1 (TF-CBT)

90834 U1 (TF-CBT)

90837 U1 (TF-CBT)

90846 U1 (TF-CBT)

90847 U1 (TF-CBT)

90837 U2 (PCIT)

90846 U2 (PCIT)

90847 U2 (PCIT)

*These codes with modifiers may only be billed by clinicians actively rostered or certified to deliver trauma assessments (informed or intensive version), or to provide TF-CBT or PCIT treatments.

Post Payment Review

WellCare NC will periodically audit to ensure only credentialed and rostered providers are rendering enhanced assessments and trauma treatments. We will also conduct periodic record reviews to confirm assessments and treatments are delivered to established fidelity and quality standards.



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If you are a rostered or certified provider and have questions regarding this initiative, please contact WellCare Provider Relations at NCProviderRelations@Wellcare.com