

Requirements for Credentialing Clinicians Conducting Behavioral Health Assessments and/or Serving as Clinical Liaisons

Type of Clinician	Credentials Required for Performing Assessments or Serving as Clinical Liaison	Procedure for Credentialing
Behavioral Health Professionals (BHPs)		
<p>The following licensed behavioral health professionals who are registered with AHCCCS to bill independently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician (MD and DO) • Psychologist • Nurse Practitioner (NP) • Physician Assistant (PA) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensure by appropriate State Licensing Board; 2. Board certification, if applicable, or highest level of credentials attained; 3. If the T/RBHA lists provider schooling information in member materials or on the T/RBHA website, documentation of graduation from an accredited school and completion of any required internships/residency programs, or other postgraduate training; 4. NPDB query, or In lieu of NPDB query, all of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minimum 5 year history (or total history if less than 5 years) of professional liability claims resulting in judgment or settlement; b. Disciplinary actions and licensure status with regulatory board or agency, if applicable; and c. Medicare/Medicaid sanctions, if applicable. 5. For physicians (non-psychiatrists), NPs and PAs, 1-year behavioral health work experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written application completed, signed and dated by the potential clinician that attests to the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reasons for any inability to perform essential functions of the position, with or without accommodation; ○ Lack of present illegal drug use; ○ If applicable, history of loss of license and/or felony convictions; ○ If applicable, history of loss or limitation of privileges or disciplinary action; ○ Current malpractice insurance coverage; and ○ Correctness and completeness of the application. • Minimum 5 year work history or total work history if less than 5 years; • Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) or Chemical Database Service (CDS) certification, if applicable; and • Primary source verification of items 1-4 (including 4.a. – 4.c.).
<p>The following Masters level therapists who are registered with AHCCCS to bill independently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Social Worker • Marriage and Family Therapist • Professional Counselor • Independent Substance Abuse Counselor 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensure by the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners; 2. A review of complaints received and disciplinary status through the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners; 3. Minimum 5 year history (or total history if less than 5 years) of professional liability claims resulting in judgment or settlement; and 4. Medicare/Medicaid sanctions, if applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written application completed, signed and dated by the potential clinician that attests to the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reasons for any inability to perform essential functions of the position, with or without accommodation; ○ Lack of present illegal drug use; ○ If applicable, history of loss of license and/or felony convictions; ○ If applicable, history of loss or limitation of privileges or disciplinary action;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current malpractice insurance coverage; and ○ Correctness and completeness of the application. ● Minimum 5 year work history or total work history if less than 5 years; ● Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) or Chemical Database Service (CDS) certification, if applicable; and ● Primary source verification of items 1-4.
<p>The following other licensed behavioral health professionals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical Social Worker (if not registered with AHCCCS to bill independently) ● Marriage and Family Therapist (if not registered with AHCCCS to bill independently) ● Professional Counselor (if not registered with AHCCCS to bill independently) ● Independent Substance Abuse Counselor (if not registered with AHCCCS to bill independently); ● Master Social Worker ● Baccalaureate Social Worker. ● Associate Counselor ● Associate Marriage and Family Therapist ● Substance Abuse Counselor ● RN with at least 1 year of full-time behavioral health experience 	<p>Only those clinicians who will be performing assessments and/or serving as a clinical liaison need to be credentialed. Credentials required include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensure by the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners or Board of Nursing; and 2. A review of complaints received and disciplinary status through the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners or Board of Nursing; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Written application completed, signed and dated by the potential clinician that attests to the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reasons for any inability to perform essential functions of the position, with or without accommodation; ○ Lack of present illegal drug use; ○ If applicable, history of loss of license and/or felony convictions; ○ If applicable, history of loss or limitation of privileges or disciplinary action; ○ Current malpractice insurance coverage; and ○ Correctness and completeness of the application. ● Minimum 5 year work history or total work history if less than 5 years; and ● Primary source verification of items 1-2.

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Behavioral Health Technicians (BHTs)		
<p>Only certain qualified BHTs are eligible to perform assessments and/or serve as clinical liaisons. To be considered a qualified BHT, a person must have one of the following combinations of education, license and/or behavioral health work experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master’s degree in behavioral health related field • Bachelor’s degree in behavioral health related field and 2 years behavioral health work experience • Master’s degree in non-behavioral health related field and 30 semester hours in behavioral health education (see PM Attachment 3.20.1) and 2 years behavioral health work experience • Bachelor’s degree in non-behavioral health related field 30 semester hours in behavioral health education (see PM Attachment 3.20.1) and four years behavioral health work experience • Associate’s degree in behavioral health related field and 4 years behavioral health work experience • Associate’s degree in non-behavioral health related field and 30 semester hours in behavioral health education (see PM Attachment 3.20.1) and 5 years behavioral health work experience 	<p>Only those practitioners who will be performing assessments and/or serving as a clinical liaison will need to be credentialed. Credentials required include:</p> <p>For Physician Assistants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensure by the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants; and 2. Disciplinary actions and licensure status obtained through the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants. <p>For non-licensed BHTs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educational degree; and 2. College course transcripts indicating behavioral health education. <p>See Provider Manual Section 3.20, Credentialing and Privileging for the definition of a behavioral health related field.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written application completed, signed and dated by the potential clinician that attests to the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reasons for any inability to perform essential functions of the position, with or without accommodation; ○ Lack of present illegal drug use and/or felony convictions; ○ For Physician Assistants, history of loss of license; ○ For Physician Assistants, history of loss or limitation of privileges or disciplinary action; and ○ Correctness and completeness of the application; • Minimum 5 year work history or total work history if less than 5 years. • For Physician Assistants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary source verification of items 1 – 2 under Physician Assistants; • For non-licensed BHTs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Verify educational degree; and ○ Review and verify authenticity of college course transcripts (see PM Attachment 3.20.1).

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed Physician Assistant (who is not working as a medical clinician) and 2 years of behavioral health work experience; or • Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP), certified through the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Certification Program. 		