
Certified Wellness Coach (CWC) Services

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Program Coverage

Medi-Cal covers Certified Wellness Coach (CWC) services as preventive services under the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 42, Section 440.130(c). These services are part of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) and are designed to support the behavioral health and wellness of Medi-Cal members primarily under age 26.

CWC services are non-clinical, trauma-informed and culturally responsive. CWC services support members in achieving and maintaining optimal health through evidence-based coaching strategies that address lifestyle, behavioral and social determinants of health. They are provided on the recommendation of a physician or a licensed practitioner of the healing arts (“licensed practitioners”) and may be delivered in school, school-linked, or community-based settings.

Definitions

A certified wellness coach (CWC) is a non-licensed certified health professional trained to provide preventive wellness services, including health education, behavioral coaching, and care navigation. CWCs support members in achieving health-related goals through structured coaching sessions.

A supervising provider is a Medi-Cal enrolled provider responsible for overseeing CWC services. Supervisors are licensed practitioners or individuals holding a valid pupil personnel services (PPS) credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, specifically credentialed school counselors, credentialed school psychologists and credentialed school social workers.

Covered Services

Wellness promotion and education: Offering services to groups or classrooms focused on wellness promotion and education, including mental health literacy, life skills, behavior activation, supporting and practicing overcoming maladaptive thinking patterns identified in higher level care, distraction strategies, and emotional regulation.

Care coordination including navigation services: Connecting members to internal and external behavioral health resources and social services, facilitating communication with other professionals, and providing additional support to providers, school, or broader organization personnel, including behavioral health related administrative activities and extension of non-clinical or clinical behavioral health support.

Screening not requiring a license: Supporting youth completing behavioral health screenings, identifying and referring behavioral health needs of youth to behavioral health providers and coordinating and facilitating universal screening programs.

Individual and group behavioral health coaching: Including wellness education, coping skills, goal setting and planning, teaching life skills, stress management and problem solving.

Crisis referral: Identifying potential risk, providing emotional support, and engaging in warm handoffs with licensed, credentialed or associate behavioral health providers.

CWC Services

Overview

CWC services are a Medi-Cal benefit as part of the CYBHI. These services are preventive, non-clinical, and designed to support behavioral health and wellness intended primarily for youth under age 26.

Eligibility

CWC services are available to Medi-Cal members. When delivered as a part of the CYBHI Fee Schedule, members are eligible for these services if they:

- Are under age 26
- Are enrolled in public transitional kindergarten through grade 12 (TK-12) schools or public institutions of higher education (IHEs)
- Receive services at school sites, school-linked sites including mobile clinics, community-based settings, or telehealth modalities, and
- Have a recommendation from a licensed practitioner or an individual holding a PPS credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Billing Codes

CPT Code	Description	Frequency Limits per Individual Beneficiary
0591T	Health and well-being coaching face-to-face; individual, initial assessment	Maximum of two (2) units per member, per year, per provider when services are rendered for the CYBHI Fee Schedule Program. Additional services may be provided beyond the maximum if deemed medically necessary by a qualified provider.
0592T	Health and well-being coaching face-to-face; individual, follow-up session, at least 30 minutes	Maximum of three (3) units per member, per day, per provider when services are rendered for the CYBHI Fee Schedule program. Additional services may be provided beyond the maximum if deemed medically necessary by a qualified provider.
0593T	Health and well-being coaching face-to-face; group (2 or more individuals), at least 30 minutes	Maximum of three (3) units per member, per day, per provider when services are rendered for the CYBHI Fee Schedule program. Additional services may be provided beyond the maximum if deemed medically necessary by a qualified provider.

Note: The U4 modifier must be used on all CYBHI Fee Schedule claims.

General CWC Service Code Utilization

Individual initial assessments cannot be billed on the same day as a follow-up session for individual or group session.

Time billed for services should include only direct service time. Indirect service time has been included in the reimbursement rate and should not be billed.

Documentation Requirements

CWCs are required to document the services they provide. CWC documentation must include session notes including date, time and duration, type of service/interventions provided, location of service, topics discussed, and progress toward goals. Documentation must be accessible to the supervising provider and available upon request.

Supervision Requirements

CWCs must be supervised by a licensed practitioner (licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed professional clinic counselor, licensed psychologist) or an individual holding a PPS credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, specifically credentialed school counselors, credentialed school social workers. Supervision includes clinical oversight, case review, and support for ethical practice. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring compliance.

Minimum Qualifications

CWCs must be certified through the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). Certification levels include:

CWC I

CWC I's **Education Pathway** is an associate's degree in social work, human services, psychology or addiction studies from a California Community College plus 150 hours of field experience. CWC I's **Workforce Pathway** is any associate's degree plus 1,350 hours of field experience.

CWC II

CWC II's **Education Pathway** is a bachelor's degree in social work, human services, psychology or addiction studies plus 300 hours of field experience. CWC II's **Workforce Pathway** is any bachelor's degree plus 2,700 hours of field experience.

Non-Covered Services

Non-covered services include clinical diagnosis or treatment, case management requiring licensure, transportation, childcare, homemaker services, services to non-Medi-Cal members, and peer support services (covered separately).

Telehealth

CWC services may be delivered via telehealth but may not be delivered by asynchronous store and forward. Supervising providers should refer to the *Telehealth Modalities* section of the appropriate part 2 manual for guidance regarding providing services via telehealth.

Claim Submission for the CYBHI Fee Schedules

Claims must be submitted by providers who are enrolled as a CYBHI provider and completed using the *CMS 1500* claim form.

Legend

Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.

Symbol	Description
«	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
»	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.