Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan

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Provider alert

Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus Blue℠
BCN Commercial, BCN Advantage℠

Category: Administrative, Behavioral health

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We updated the requirements to qualify as an outpatient psychiatric care facility with Blue Cross and BCN

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network updated the requirements to qualify to participate with Blue Cross and BCN as an outpatient psychiatric care facility, or OPC. The updated requirements provide greater flexibility for practices, including smaller and rural practices, while maintaining the quality and clinical oversight that are important components of the OPC model.

Here's what's new:

- **Expanded accreditation options** — The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services certification letter for contracted Community Mental Health Centers is now an accepted accreditation option.
- **Greater access and site flexibility** — Satellite locations in counties designated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as Micro, Rural and Counties with Extreme Access Considerations, or CEAC, don't require separate accreditation.

  For the list of counties that meet this exemption, refer to the *Clinical program requirements for outpatient psychiatric care facilities* document (see link below).
- **Expanded core team flexibility** — The OPC's core team requirements are updated to allow:
  - Contracted, consultative, full-time or part-time core staff
  - A board-certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner that participates directly with Blue Cross or BCN as an alternative to a board-certified or board-eligible participating psychiatrist

    Note: This is only permitted in the Micro, Rural and CEAC-designated counties listed in the *Clinical program requirements for outpatient psychiatric care facilities* document (see link below).
  - A limited licensed psychologist with supervision by a licensed psychologist as an alternative to a licensed psychologist
  - A licensed professional counselor or a licensed marriage and family therapist as an alternative to a social worker

To review the full set of requirements, refer to the Clinical program requirements for outpatient psychiatric care facilities document, which is available on the Behavioral Health Resources for Providers page at **bcbsm.com/providers**. Look under the "Clinical program requirements" heading.

For additional information about enrolling with Blue Cross and BCN as an OPC, refer to the following resources:

- Letter of intent to become an outpatient psychiatric care (OPC) facility
- Professional group practice, outpatient psychiatric care facility: Provider type comparison
- Enrollment documents helpful hints for OPCs

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