

	Peer Specialist and Certified Family Partner Services Procedure	
Procedure # 9766	Categories Clinical → Medical Policies	This Procedure Applies To: Texas Children's Health Plan, Texas Children's Hospital, Texas Children's Pediatrics, The Center for Children and Women
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PROCEDURE STATEMENT:

Texas Children's Health Plan (TCHP) will support Peer Specialist Services and Certified Family Partner Services to members in the amount, duration, and scope defined by the Texas Medicaid Providers Procedures Manual (TMPPM) and will process authorization requests for these services in accordance to TMPPM. This applies to the STAR product.

Peer Specialist Services (procedure code H0038) are a covered benefit for STAR members 21 years of age and older with a mental health condition and/or substance use condition, and who have peer specialist services included as a component of their person-centered recovery treatment plan.

Certified Family Partner Services (procedure code S9482) are a covered benefit for STAR, CHIP and STAR Kids members. Certified Family Partner Services may be provided to the parents (birth, adoptive or foster), legally authorized representatives (LARs) and primary caregivers of Medicaid eligible children and youth (20 years of age and younger) who are diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance (SED) or a mental health or a substance use condition as per the current edition of the American.

DEFINITIONS:

Peer specialist services: Recovery-oriented, person-centered, relationship-focused, voluntary, and trauma-informed. Peer specialist services may include the following:

- Recovery and wellness support, which includes providing information on and support with planning for recovery
- Mentoring, which includes serving as a role model and providing assistance in finding needed community resources and services
- Advocacy, which includes providing support in stressful or urgent situations and helping to ensure that the client's rights are respected. Advocacy may also include encouraging the client to advocate for him or herself to obtain services

Peer specialist services are based on a mutual relationship between the peer specialist and the Medicaid-eligible client. A peer specialist uses his or her lived experience to support a client in

achieving goals and objectives in the client's person-centered recovery plan, as well as skill development, problem solving strategies, and coping mechanisms for stressors and barriers encountered when recovering from a mental health condition or a substance use disorder.

Certified Family Partner Services: Also referred to as family partner support services or family peer support services which are provided directly to the primary caregiver not to the Medicaid eligible child or youth. The CFP services include the following:

- Introducing parents, LARs or primary caregivers to the mental health and substance use system.
- Modeling advocacy skills
- Providing education and information
- Making referrals
- Providing skills training
- Assisting in identifying supports
- Conducting support groups
- Helping with navigating systems, e.g., juvenile justice, child protective services, independent school districts.

PROCEDURE

1. TCHP follows Medical Policy for Peer Specialist Services as written in the current Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual.

1.1 Peer specialist services (procedure code H0038) are a benefit of Texas Medicaid for clients who are 21 years of age and older with a mental health condition and/or substance use disorder, and who have peer specialist services included as a component of their person-centered recovery treatment plan.

1.2 Peer specialist services may be provided individually or in a group.

1.3 A peer specialist must satisfy all staff credentialing, competency, training, certification and clinical supervision requirements AND

- Have a high school diploma or high school equivalency
- Have a lived experience with a mental health or substance use condition or both and be willing to appropriately share his or her own recovery story with the person receiving services.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Demonstrate current self-directed recovery.
- Pass criminal history and registry checks as described in 1 TAC §354.3201.

1.4 A peer specialist must be clinically supervised by a Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts (LPHA). The supervising LPHA must conduct at least weekly to monthly documented

observation of the peer providing services per experience level in accordance with TMPPM.

1.5 A peer specialist must not:

- Practice psychotherapy.
- Make clinical or diagnostic assessments.
- Dispense expert opinions.
- Engage in any service that requires a license.
- Falsify any documentation related to application, training, testing, certification, or services provided.

1.6 Peer Specialist services can be provided by telehealth as per Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual guidelines.

2. Certified Family Partner Services as written in the current Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual. CFP services should meet the following criteria:

2.1 Certified Family Partner Services procedure code S9482 is a benefit of Texas Medicaid or parents (birth, adoptive and foster), legally authorized representatives (LARs) or primary caregivers of a Medicaid-eligible child or youth who are 20 years or younger and diagnosed with a Serious Emotional disturbance (SED) or mental health or Substance use condition as defined in the current edition of the DSM and who also included as a component of their person-centered and trauma-informed recovery plan (plan of care).

2.2 CFPs provide services directly to the parents, LARs, or primary caregivers, not to the Medicaid-eligible child or youth.

2.3 CFP services may be provided in the office, home, outpatient hospital, and “other location” settings. CFP services may also be provided by telehealth if certain conditions are met.

2.4 CFP services may be delivered as part of a coordinated, comprehensive, and individualized approach to treating a Medicaid-eligible child’s or youth’s SED or mental health or substance use condition. CFPs may not submit claims directly to Texas Medicaid for family partner support services. CFPs must be employed by one of the following Medicaid-enrolled provider types that may submit claims for the CFP services rendered:

- Clinic and group practices treating behavioral health conditions
- Physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants treating behavioral health conditions
- Licensed psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, and licensed professional counselors
- Comprehensive provider agencies of mental health targeted case management and mental health rehabilitative services
- Local mental health or behavioral health authorities (LMHAs or LBHAs)
- Chemical dependency treatment facilities

- Federally qualified health centers
- Rural health clinics
- Opioid treatment providers

- 2.5 Prior authorization is not required for the first 104 units (26 hours) of CFP services in a rolling six-month period.
- 2.6 CFP Services must be included in the plan of care for the Medicaid-eligible child or youth to be reimbursed
- 2.7 A billable unit of CFP services (procedure code S9482) is 15 minutes of continuous contact.
- 2.8 The following modifiers may be submitted with procedure code S9482
- 95 Delivered by synchronous audiovisual technology
 - FQ Delivered by synchronous audio-only technology
 - HE Mental health program
 - HF Substance use program
 - HQ Group-delivered services
- 2.9 Claims for CFP services using procedure code S9482 must be submitted with modifier HE or HF, as appropriate
- 2.10 Claims for CFP services delivered in a group setting must also be submitted with modifier HQ
- 2.11 CFP services are limited to 104 units in a rolling six-month period. This limit may be exceeded with prior authorization.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

[Peer Specialist and Certified Family Partner Services Policy](#)

REFERENCES:

[Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual](#), 6 Peer Specialist Services, Accessed March 3, 2025

[Certified Family Partner Services to Become a Benefit of Texas Medicaid on March 1, 2025 | TMHP](#)

Status	Date	Action
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