



Provider Alert

Optum Behavioral Commercial – Certified Peer Specialist Benefit

Effective for dates of service as of 01/01/2023, MA Health Connector, for exchange business, has indicated they, along with Mass Health, will require coverage of Peer Specialist Services. The coding and billing recommendations for Peer Specialist Services are included below.

Please Note: Additional health plans may opt into providing these services for their commercial membership.

MassHealth and Commercial Coding/Billing Requirements:

Certified Peer Specialists

Service Code	Line of Business	Service Description
H0046-HE	Medicaid	Mental health services not otherwise specified (Certified Peer Specialist Services).
H0038-HE	Commercial	Mental health services, not otherwise specified (Certified Peer Specialist Services).

MassHealth Provider Requirements:

A Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) is a trained professional who shares their lived experience of mental health recovery, resilience and healing by establishing relationships and supports to people in settings that include inpatient, emergency services, respite, community health and outreach services, prevention and Recovery Learning Communities (RLCs). A qualified CPS must meet Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) requirements, including completion and certification by an agency approved by the Department of Mental Health.¹

To become a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS), in Massachusetts, you must complete the CPS training and pass the Certification exam. CPS Providers must complete the Certified Peer Specialist training program. Applicants to the CPS Training Program must: have lived experience with mental health, emotional health and/or trauma resulting in significant life disruption, be 18 years or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent, live or work in Massachusetts, and willingness to share their story in the context of Peer Support.

¹ Information found on the Kiva Centers website, which is the Certified Peer Specialist program that is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Link to website: [Microsoft Word - The-MASSACHUSETTS-CERTIFIED-PEER-SPECIALIST-CPS-TRAINING-PROGRAM.docx \(kivacenters.org\)](#)