

TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION ACTION ALERT

Contact HHSC on Medicaid Rate Rules: Comment by 5/18/17

CALL TO ACTION

Please share this Action Alert across your social media platforms!

Once again, the Health and Human Services Commission has chosen NOT to include LPC-Interns as eligible providers under Medicaid. New rules have been posted that will allow Provisionally Licensed Psychologists, Licensed Psychological Associates and Psychology Interns or Fellows to bill Medicaid for Outpatient Mental Health Services. See [HHSC Texas Medicaid Program Rate Analysis Rate Packets](#).

A public hearing will be held on Thursday May 18, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the Brown-Heatly Building at 4900 North Lamar Blvd in Austin. HHSC is accepting written comments until 5 p.m. on Thursday.

HHSC needs to hear from you now!

Submit your comments [by email](#) or by fax at 512-730-7475. Talking points are listed below. Speak from your heart about how expanding Medicaid to include LPC-Interns will impact your community, your practice and mental health workforce shortage areas.

Talking Points:

- LPC-Interns should be authorized to bill Medicaid just as Provisionally Licensed Psychologists and Psychology Interns and Fellows.
- LPC-Interns hold temporary licenses as they complete supervision. They have completed their Master's or Doctoral degrees and have passed their License and Jurisprudence examinations. Psychology Interns and Fellows are not licensed mental health professionals.
- LPC-Interns' credentials and experience are comparable to Licensed Psychological Associates and Provisionally Licensed Psychologists. There is no reason for LPC-Interns not to be authorized to bill Medicaid.
- Expanding the pool of Medicaid providers by including LPC-Interns not only will help address the mental health workforce shortage issues but also will help stretch limited Medicaid dollars.
- Including LPC-Interns will create a pathway to help address the aging out of the current provider groups. Authorizing LPC-Interns to bill Medicaid will increase the likelihood that these well-qualified and licensed mental health professionals will remain in the system as Medicaid providers.

Thank you for all you do to support professional counselors, your students and your clients. Contact [Jan Friese](#), TCA Executive Director, with questions or requests for additional information.

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