

Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS) Guidance document

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Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to provide external partners with information on the work The Health Care Authority (HCA) has completed regarding taxonomies, modifiers, and codes for the provider type Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS) effective 01/01/2026. The document is for informational purposes only, and the document does not replace The Health Care Authority billing guides, or the Service Encounter Reporting Instructions (SERI). Billing guides are updated quarterly, and providers should be using the publication for the time frame of the service completed. SERI is updated on April 1st, and October 1st, or interim if needed. Information on billing guides can be found at this link: [Provider billing guides and fee schedules | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)

Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS)

This document is being completed to provide information on billing for the provider type: Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS). SB 5189 established the BHSS provider type. A BHSS is a credential available to a person in Washington state with a four-year degree in psychology, social work, behavioral healthcare or related degree program who has completed 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours of DOH approved BHSS specific training including a 240-hour practicum, and a jurisprudence exam prior to application for the certification. The Department of Health (DOH) has published rules under [Chapter 18.227 RCW](#) and [Chapter 246-821 WAC](#). Link to UW: [Behavioral Health Support Specialist Clinical Training Program](#)

What taxonomy and modifier are being used by The Health Care Authority (HCA) for Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS) provider?

Taxonomy and Modifier for BHSS:

NUCC Health Care Provider taxonomy code set: [Taxonomy](#)

Taxonomy: 101Y00000X

Modifier: HN

HN indicates mental health service was provided by a provider with a bachelor's degree. Specifically, it's used when a provider with a bachelor's degree in a related field (like psychology or social work) renders services, often under the supervision of a licensed provider.

What codes will be reimbursable under Medicaid for a Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS)?

The following were found to be appropriate and reimbursable codes for a BHSS for Medicaid services. The codes are listed along with the short descriptions for the following billing and encountering guides: [Provider billing guides and fee schedules | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)

- *Mental Health Billing Guide – Part 1*
- *Physician-Related Services Billing Guide*
- *Mental Health Billing Guide – Part 2 / Service Encounter Reporting Instructions (SERI)*
- *Inpatient facility billing*

Outpatient codes for Mental Health Billing Guide Part 1

I.E: individual licensed providers, primary care clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Center (RHC), and outpatient hospitals.

Screenings	Short Description
H0002	Alcohol and/or drug screenin
Individual Treatment	
H0004	BH cnsling and therapy
Behavioral Health outreach Services	
H0023	Bh outreach srvc
Family and Group Therapy	
90846	Family psytx w/o pt 50 min
90847	Family psytx w/pt 50 min
90849	Multiple family group psytx
90853	Group Psychotherapy
Medication Monitoring	
H0034	Med trng & support per 15min

Physician-Related/ Professional Billing Guide for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral program (SBIRT) AUDIT/DAST codes

Audit/Dast screening codes	Short Description
99408	AUDIT/DAST 15 to 30 minutes
99409	AUDIT/DAST over 30 minutes

Behavioral Health Agency (BHA) codes for Service Encounter Reporting Instructions (SERI) and Mental Health Billing Guide Part 2

Procedure Code	Short Description
Individual treatment services	
HCPCS H0004	BH cnsling and therapy
HCPCS H0036	Comm psy face-face per 15min
HCPCS H0046	Mental health service, nos
HCPCS H2014	Skills train and dev, 15 min
HCPCS H2015	Comp comm supp svc, 15 min
HCPCS H2017	Psysoc rehab svc, per 15 min
Group and Family Therapy	
CPT® 90846	Family psytx w/o pt 50 min
CPT® 90847	Family psytx w/pt 50 min
CPT® 90849	Multiple family group psytx
CPT® 90853	Group psychotherapy
Behavioral Health Care Coordination and Community Integration	
HCPCS H0023	Bh outreach srvc
Medication Monitoring	
HCPCS H0033	Oral med adm direct observe
HCPCS H0034	Med trng & support per 15min
Intensive Outpatient and Partial Hospitalization Treatment	
HCPCS H0035	Mh partial hosp tx under 24h
HCPCS S9480	Intensive outpatient psychia
High Intensity Treatment	
HCPCS H0040	Assert comm tx pgm per diem
HCPCS H2022	Com wrap-around sv, per diem
HCPCS H2033	Multisys ther/juvenile 15min

Day Support	
HCPCS H2012	Behav hlth day treat, per hr
HCPCS H2017	Psysoc rehab svc, per 15 min

Therapeutic Psychoeducation	
HCPCS H0025	Behav. hlth prev. educ. srvcs
HCPCS H2027	Psychoed svc, per 15 min
HCPCS S9446	Pt education noc group
Crisis Intervention and Stabilization	
HCPCS S9484	Crisis intervention per hour
HCPCS S9485	Crisis intervention mental h
HCPCS H0030	BH hotline srv
HCPCS H2011	Crisis interven svc, 15 min
HCPCS H2019	Ther behav svc, per 15 min

Inpatient Facility - Mental Health Billing Guide Part IV, and Service Encounter Reporting Instructions (SERI)

BHSS providers may be hired as part of the overall staffing model for behavioral health inpatient and residential settings to include:

- Mental Health Residential
- Crisis Stabilization Facilities
- Crisis Relief Centers
- Evaluation and Treatment Facilities
- Intensive Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities
- Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitals

Below is a list of per diem billing codes for these settings and services.

Procedure Code	Short description	Setting Type
HCPCS H0018	Alcohol and/or drug services	Mental Health short term residential facility - less than 30 days
HCPCS H0019	Alcohol and/or drug services	Mental Health long term residential facility - more than 30 days
REVENUE CODE: 1001 or 01X4	Psychiatric health facility service, per diem.	Evaluation and treatment and inpatient psychiatric facilities
REVENUE CODE: 1001 or 01x4 HCPC CODE: H0018	BH srvcs; short-term residential (nonhospital residential tx program where stay is typically less than 30 days), w/o R&B, per diem	Evaluation and treatment and inpatient psychiatric facilities.
REVENUE CODE: 1001 or 01x4 HCPC CODE: H0019	BH srvcs; long-term residential (nonmedical, non-acute care in a residential tx program where stay is typically longer than 30 days), w/o R&B, per diem	Evaluation and treatment and inpatient psychiatric facilities
HCPCS H2036	A/d tx program, per diem	SERI: MH facility lodging code Lodging that is billable with a SERI inpatient revenue code or HCPCS code above.

HCPCS S9976 (MH billing guide part 2)	Lodging per diem	Fee-for-Service MH part 2 lodging code. Lodging that is billable with a revenue code of 1001 or HCPCS short- or long-term code above.
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