



Date: September 1, 2020

DCTS Action Memo 2020-13

To: County Departments of Community Programs
County Departments of Health and Human Services
County Departments of Human Services
Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From: Rose Kleman, Administrator

Rate Information for Billing for Services Provided by the Mental Health Institutes

Document summary

The October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, average daily inpatient rate for adult services for Mendota Mental Health Institute and Winnebago Mental Health Institute will increase 4.0 percent. The daily rates for child and adolescent services and geropsychiatric services will increase 4.0 percent, and the emergency detention and non-typical services add-ons will increase 4.0 percent from the existing rates. The daily rates at both facilities are the same and considered systemwide rates.

Background

Each year, the Department of Health Services (DHS) reviews and revises the rates charged for services at the state mental health institutes. The mental health institute rates shown below are effective October 1, 2020. Rates are based on the actual cost of providing these services and the availability of third party revenues such as Medicare and Medicaid.

**Rate Schedule for Mental Health Institutes
October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021**

PER DAY INPATIENT RATE	MENDOTA	WINNEBAGO
Adult Psychiatric Services	\$1,174	\$1,174
Geropsychiatric	\$1,149	NA
Child and Adolescent	NA	\$1,201
Forensic (all security levels)	\$1,174	\$1,174
Emergency Detention Add-On	\$274	\$274
First three days of service (plus intervening weekends and legal holidays)		
Non-Typical Services Add-On	\$274	\$274

Emergency detention approvals

Effective June 30, 2009, Wis. Stat. § 51.15(2) was changed to require approval of the need for emergency detention from the county department of community programs in the county where the individual was taken into custody, prior to transporting the person for detention.

Services for children and elderly

Effective January 1, 2010, Wis. Stat. § 49.45(30r) was changed to require the county to provide the nonfederal portion of the Medicaid payment for services for patients that are under 21 years of age, are under 22 years of age and who were receiving services immediately prior to reaching age 21, or who are 65 years of age or older. DHS will bill the county the full daily rate for these patients, and return to the county the federal share of the payment when received. Effective April 1, 2010, Mendota Mental Health Institute stopped serving children and adolescents. Children and adolescents are being served at Winnebago Mental Health Institute.

Payment protocol

Per Wis. Stat. § 51.42(3)(as)2, DHS shall deduct the amount due for treatment at the institutes from any payment due from DHS to the county department.

Non-typical services

DHS seeks to minimize the shifting of costs whenever possible. Under a straight flat-rate system, some costs of non-typical services would be shifted to counties who are responsible for patients not having extraordinary costs. To minimize this, non-typical costs are broken out separately from the flat rate so that only those counties having patients requiring these unusual services incur these costs.

When a patient requires non-typical services or nonemergency outpatient medical care, the county will be notified 48 hours prior to initiating services and, in emergency situations, within eight hours of initiating services. The county is afforded the opportunity to discuss the situation with a representative of the institute empowered to act on behalf of the institute. The county and institute may agree to an alternative course of action or the county may request the discharge of the patient to pursue the county's choice of an alternate course of action. If the county agrees to the proposed course of action or there is no agreement, the institute will continue the course of action and the county will be liable for the non-typical charge add-on.

Non-typical services are defined as services not normally required by a patient, including, but are not limited to, outpatient medical care, 1:1 care greater than four hours in a 24-hour period, and increased costs to provide mental health services specific to a particular patient (for example, interpreter services for deaf or non-English speaking patients).

Emergency situation is defined as a situation whereby a physician, using his/her medical judgment, determines serious harm will result to the patient if the proposed action is delayed 48 hours (for example, hospitalization, outpatient medical care, or other non-typical services).

Inpatient medical-related hospitalization

When a patient requires inpatient hospitalization outside an institute, the county will be notified as soon as possible before the hospitalization or, at a minimum, within eight hours of initiating services. The county should work with the outside organization to determine the appropriate entity to be billed for the inpatient charges. The responsible entity will be billed directly by the outside organization for the hospitalization and all outside costs associated with it. The patient will be discharged to the outside organization for the period of hospitalization and readmitted to the institute when discharged from the outside organization. The county is not billed daily institute rates during outside hospitalization.

Payment for evaluation or treatment ordered by a juvenile court

Medicaid will not pay for court-ordered evaluation or treatment services provided to a juvenile under Wis. Stat. ch. 938 because these services are not considered to be medically necessary (the same as for services provided under the adult criminal code in Wis. Stat. §§ 971.14 and 971.17). Therefore, the county that orders evaluation or treatment services under ch. 938 is responsible for payment for these services, as required under Wis. Stat. §§ 938.295; 938.34(6)(a), (b), and (c); 938.361; and 938.362. The county of the court ordering the examination or treatment will receive the bill. The rates charged to the county are based on the daily rates of the unit where the juvenile resides during his/her stay at the institute.

The only exception to county financial responsibility is when alcohol or other drug abuse treatment is determined to be medically necessary under Wis. Stat. § 938.34(6)(am), in which case Medicaid may pay for the service that is provided in an approved alcohol or substance use treatment unit.

Court-ordered adult competency evaluation charges

Wisconsin Stat. § 51.42(3)(as)1m allows the state to bill for stays at the institutes beginning 48 hours, not including weekends and legal holidays, after notification the evaluation is completed. This statute states, “A county department shall reimburse a mental health institute at the institute's daily rate for custody of any person who is ordered by a court located in that county to be examined at the mental health institute under s. 971.14(2) for all days that the person remains in custody at the mental health institute, beginning 48 hours, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, after the sheriff and county department receive notice under s. 971.14(2)(d) that the examination has been completed.”

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT

Caroline Ellerkamp
Office of Budget and Performance Management
Division of Care and Treatment Services
Department of Health Services
1 W. Wilson St., Room 850
Madison, WI 53703
608-267-2254
caroline.ellerkamp@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Memo websites

[DCTS Action Memos](#)

DCTS Action Memos are posted online in PDF format.

[DCTS Information Memos](#)

DCTS Information Memos are posted online in PDF format.

[DCTS Action and Information Memos Email Subscription Service](#)

Receive an email each time a new memo is released. This email will include a link to the online version of the memo.