



PROVIDER ALERT

Updated SUD Paraprofessional Requirements

September 1, 2020

Alert Summary:

This alert details recent updates to education requirements for paraprofessionals providing substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services. It also provides information on certification requirements, supervision, scope of practice, personnel file documentation, and information on claims for SUD paraprofessionals.

SUD Paraprofessional Provider Information for the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan

On behalf of IDHW, Optum Idaho is providing the following guidance for providers serving members in the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan (IBHP). Paraprofessionals (defined as individuals who are not independently licensed) providing outpatient substance use disorder treatment services within the IBHP are no longer required to have a bachelor's degree; however, they must meet the minimum relevant certification available for the service rendered (ex., CADC) effective 10/01/2020.

It is important to note that in addition to meeting requirements set forth by state/federal laws and regulations, IDHW and Optum, providers should also ensure that practices align with the requirements from the entity issuing a certification or designation (ex. IBADCC).

Supervision Requirements

Clinical supervision requirements are established in the Supervisory Protocol Addendum to the Provider Agreement. Supervision requirements in Supervisory Protocol align with Idaho Medicaid State Plan requirements. Providers may also need to meet additional supervision requirements from licensing or certification entities.

Scope of Practice

It is important to ensure that services are in the paraprofessional's scope of practice based on education/training and certification/designation. State-approved certification/designation entities are: Idaho Board of Alcohol/Drug Counselor Certification, Inc. (IBADCC), Northwest Indian Alcohol/Drug Certification Board (NWIADCB), and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Division of Behavioral Health (DBH). A paraprofessional should work with their supervisor(s) to determine the services within their scope.

SUD Individual and Group are generally within the scope of practice for paraprofessionals with the following certifications/designations:

- Certified Alcohol/Drug Counselor (CADC, certified by IBADCC)
- Substance Use Disorder Associate (SUDA, formerly Idaho Student of Addiction Studies certified by IBADCC)
- Counselor in Training (certified by NWIADCB)
- Chemical Dependency Counselor I-III (CDCI-III, certified by NWIADCB)
- Qualified Substance Use Disorder Professional (QSUDP) designated prior to May 1, 2010 (designated by DBH)

Recovery Coaching is within the scope of practice for paraprofessionals with the following certifications:

- Certified Recovery Coach (CRC certified by IBADCC)
- Certified Peer Recovery Coach (CPRC certified by IBADCC)

Please note that IBADCC recently made certification changes effective 7/1/20.

Personnel File Documentation

Requirements for employee personnel files are located in the Organizational Site Audit Tool, which is posted on [OptumIdaho.com](https://www.optumidaho.com) > For Network Providers > Guidelines & Policies under the “Network Provider Audit Tools” headline.

Claims

Per the Supervisory Protocol Addendum to the Provider Agreement, licensed supervising clinicians within the agency may submit claims in their name for treatment services rendered by paraprofessional employees within the agency who are under the direct supervision of the licensed clinicians. Additional information on claims is provided in the Compensation & Claims Processing section of the Optum Idaho Provider Manual which is posted on [OptumIdaho.com](https://www.optumidaho.com) > For Network Providers > Guidelines & Policies under the “Network Provider Manual” headline.

Questions

If you have questions regarding SUD paraprofessional certification/designation, please contact your Regional Provider Relations Advocate.

Thank you,

The Optum Idaho Team