



Become a Medicare Covered Provider!

As of January 1, 2024, licensed marriage and family therapists (MFTs) and mental health counselors (MHCs) are recognized as Medicare-eligible providers and can receive reimbursement from Medicare.

SUPPORT THE GENERATIONS THAT CAME BEFORE YOU.

As a Medicare provider, you will help combat the growing mental health crisis affecting seniors and other vulnerable populations. Enrolling will also help you build credibility by joining the millions of other Medicare-covered health professionals across the country, while also providing you a steady pipeline of short- and long-term clients.

REACH NEW POPULATIONS AND IMPROVE LIVES.

There are more than 65 million Medicare beneficiaries making up 20% of the U.S. population—1 in 4 have a mental health condition. Sadly, up to 50% don't receive any mental health care. By enrolling as a Medicare-covered provider, you will help reduce the mental health care gap and provide mental health treatment that millions of seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries need and deserve!



Broaden experience by working with a diverse population

While seniors make up the majority of Medicare beneficiaries and have unique complex needs, we also recognize beneficiaries include other populations, such as people with disabilities, people with substance use disorder, veterans, and people with low-incomes who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.



Expand your reach to different family structures in need of marriage and family therapy

More than 2.4 million American children are being raised by their grandparents—a unique family dynamic that lacks affordable access to mental health services. Young providers can help bridge the generational gap and bring healing to families in need.



Grow your clientele and explore specialization opportunities

While MFTs are trained to provide the full range of mental health services, each individual therapist's clients vary based on location, expertise and interest. Becoming a Medicare provider can help expand your client base and identify areas where you might want to specialize.

To enroll in Medicare an MFT must possess a master's or doctoral degree which qualifies for licensure as an MFT, have two years of clinical supervised experience in marriage and family therapy, and be licensed as an MFT by a State. If you meet the criteria, **begin supporting Medicare beneficiaries by [becoming a Medicare provider today!](#)**

Frequently Asked Questions

■ When can MFTs start providing services to clients as Medicare-eligible providers?

MFTs can begin the process of enrolling as Medicare providers NOW! Recognition of MFTs as Medicare-eligible providers went into effect on January 1, 2024. MFTs can begin providing services to Medicare beneficiaries and receiving Medicare reimbursement in 2024.

■ How can MFTs enroll in Medicare?

The provider enrollment page can be found [here](#). This will bring you to the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS). If you have not already done so, you will also need to apply for a National Provider Identifier (NPI) via the National Plan & Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). This is required of all medical providers and suppliers before enrolling as a Medicare provider.

■ In what settings can MFTs see Medicare beneficiaries?

MFTs enrolled in Medicare may offer services to enrollees in most practice settings, including private practice and most clinical settings. MFTs will also be able to serve as eligible providers in Medicare Advantage plans and provide services to Medicare enrollees in Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics.

■ Which MFTs are eligible to enroll in Medicare?

To be eligible, an MFT must be licensed by a state to practice independently to enroll as a Medicare provider. MFT associates, interns and students are not eligible to enroll as Medicare-eligible providers. To enroll in Medicare an MFT must possess a master's or doctoral degree which qualifies for licensure as an MFT, have two years of clinical supervised experience in marriage and family therapy, and be licensed as an MFT by a State.

■ How can an MFT opt-out of Medicare coverage?

Opting out of coverage would mean Medicare beneficiaries would pay out of pocket for your services.

To opt-out of coverage, an opt-out affidavit will need to be submitted to Medicare. To cancel an opt-out status, a cancellation request form must be submitted at least 30 days before your opt-out period is set to expire.

■ What about working with Medicare Advantage (MA) plans?

MFTs who would like to work with Medicare Advantage plans must enroll as a provider with each individual MA plan. Providers who wish to participate in managed care programs, such as Medicare Advantage plans, will need to contact the MA plan to get an enrollment form. All MA plans must offer the option for MFTs to enroll. You can call 1-800-Medicare for additional information.

■ Can MFTs furnish telehealth services to clients?

MFTs will be added to the list of practitioners who can furnish Medicare telehealth services, effective January 1, 2024. MFTs who wish to perform telehealth services must enroll in the state where they are located when furnishing the service. The practitioner must also have a valid license in the enrolling state. Please access the [Medicare telehealth services fact sheet](#) on the CMS website for additional information.

■ Where can I provide services to Medicare beneficiaries after I enroll as a Medicare provider?

The passage of legislation adding MFTs and MHCs as Medicare providers presents the opportunity to provide services to beneficiaries in a variety of treatment settings, including agency and private practice settings, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Medicare hospice interdisciplinary teams, Medicare Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care Programs, Medicare Innovative Delivery and Payment Programs, and telehealth services.