



MENTAL HEALTH BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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SUBJECT

Maximum Allowable Rates of Reimbursement
For Psychiatric Physicians

BY

Deputy Secretary for Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Services

SCOPE: County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Administrators
County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Fiscal Officers

PURPOSE:

This bulletin updates Mental Health Bulletin OMH-95-01 dated February 8, 1995. It advises state supervised, county-administered programs of new maximum allowable rates of Department of Public Welfare reimbursement for County Mental Health/Mental Retardation expenditures for contract or salaried Psychiatric Physicians. This bulletin will remain in effect until a new bulletin is published. The actual salary reimbursement will vary according to the county compensation plan in effect. These maximums are derived from the current state salary structure. Please note, however, that these rates are not applicable to contract or salaried psychiatric physicians employed by Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations in the HealthChoices program.

In order to receive reimbursement at these levels, counties must revise their county compensation plan, Personnel Action Plan, or Modified Classification Review Plan appropriately.

	Psychiatric Physician 1	Psychiatric Physician 2	Psychiatric Physician 3
<u>For Salaried Psychiatrists:</u>			
A. Base Allowable Reimbursement Maximum Rates (including benefits)	\$136,972.59	\$155,167.29	\$155,167.29
B. Service Payment (retention)	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
C. Adequate Performance Payment	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
D. Board Certification	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
E. Board Certification and Practicing in Forensic, Child, Addiction or Geriatric Psychiatry	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
TOTAL Allowable Reimbursement Maximum Rate	\$165,972.59	\$184,167.29	\$184,167.29

NOTE: The allowable reimbursement for part-time salaried psychiatric physicians should be a prorated amount of the above maximums.

Obsolete Material: Mental Health Bulletin OMH-95-01, issued February 8, 1995.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Bureau of Financial Management and Administration, Budget Section (717) 787-2773

Eligibility for Payment for Board Certification

In order to be eligible for any of the certification payments, the psychiatric physician must work a minimum of 50 percent of a full-time schedule. Full-time is defined as a county's standard work week.

For individuals working less than full-time but at least 50 percent of a full-time schedule, payment shall be prorated by comparing their hours worked during the current year with a full-time schedule of work for the current year.

In order to qualify for the \$5,000 payment (see Category D), a physician must be certified by one of the following specialty boards:

American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry

In order to qualify for the additional \$5,000 payment (see Category E), a physician must be certified by one of the following specialty boards:

American Board of Forensic Psychiatry
American Board of Neurology and Neurology in the
- Specialty of Child Psychiatry
- Specialty of Addiction Psychiatry
- Specialty of Geriatric Psychiatry

and must provide services directly related to the specialty board certification 50% or more of the time.

The Service and Performance payments are designed to encourage high quality performance and to decrease the turnover rate for Psychiatric Physicians.

A physician whose services are terminated less than one year from the start date of his/her employment is not eligible for these payments for that year.

A part-time physician who is paid for at least 978 hours during the year is eligible for a prorated amount based on the percentage of full-time which he/she works.

The performance payments shall be linked to a written performance assessment. Payments up to \$6,000 may be used to reward performance. The service payments will be based upon the number of years of service with a maximum amount of \$13,000 for 10 years of service or more. Payments should be prorated for persons who begin employment during the year. The payments will be combined into one single payment to be made by August 31 following the end of each contract year.

For Contract Psychiatrists

The maximum reimbursement for psychiatric consultation hours will be approved at the prevailing unit rate not to exceed \$84 per consultation hour for board-eligible psychiatrists and \$89 per consultation hour for board-certified psychiatrists where such services are provided through a contractual agreement and do not exceed 22 hours/week.