

Oregon Medicaid Fee-for-Service reimbursement for Community Health Workers

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) encourages Community Health Workers (CHWs) to become eligible to support clients enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan (OHP).

This fact sheet explains how CHWs can qualify to serve OHP clients – and be reimbursed for services – through the following process.

Step 1: Become a certified and registered Community Health Worker (CHW).

Services you provide as a CHW can be paid for by the Oregon Health Plan – if you are certified and registered as a Traditional Health Worker (THW).

- **What is a Traditional Health Worker?** Traditional Health Workers (THWs) is the Oregon umbrella term for five categories and sub categories of workers: Community Health Workers (CHWs), Peer Support Specialists (PSS) (e.g., addictions and mental health family and youth), Peer Wellness Specialists (PWS) (e.g., addictions and mental health family and youth), Personal Health Navigators (PHN) (also known as Patient Health Navigator), and Doula. THWs in Oregon are integrated and embedded in various organizational settings which includes behavioral health agencies, county health departments, federally qualified health centers, tribal health centers, government agencies, primary care clinics, hospitals, rural health clinics and community-based organizations. THWs provide critical services that include outreach and case management, mobilizing patients, making community and cultural connections, coordinating care, assisting in system navigation, and providing health promotion and providing coaching and support.
- **What is a Community Health Worker?** CHWs are a type of THW. CHWs have expertise or experience in public health; work in an urban or rural community; and to the extent practicable, share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status and life experiences with the residents of the community where the worker serves. A CHW is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. Please see [Community Health Worker Scope of Practice](#).
- **You must be a certified CHW provider to be eligible for OHP payment.** To learn more about CHW training, certification and registration, visit the OHA Office of Equity and Inclusion's Traditional Health Worker Program.
- [How To Become a Certified Traditional Health Worker](#)
- [OEI Traditional Health Worker Registry](#)
- [Traditional Health Worker Resources, Policies, and Laws](#)
- [THW-Approved Training Programs and Continuing Education](#)

Step 2: Become an Oregon Medicaid provider.

Once you are registered with the Traditional Health Worker Registry, your next step is to obtain a unique National Provider Identifier (NPI) and enroll as an Oregon Medicaid provider:

- **To obtain an NPI:** Apply on [the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System website](#). For reference, the taxonomy code for CHW is 172V00000X.
- **To enroll as an Oregon Medicaid provider:** complete form [OHP 3113](#). Enter provider type 13, specialty code 601. Include your NPI and a copy of your OEI certification. To learn more, visit the [OHP provider enrollment page](#).

Learn more about Oregon Medicaid reimbursement for CHWs

Oregon Administrative Rule

The requirements for Community Health Workers in terms of Certification and Provider Registry Enrollment; Certification Curriculum Standards; Training; Standards of Professional Conduct are addressed in OAR [Chapter 410, Division 180](#).

Medicaid State Plan

- General Information
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Pages/State-Plans.aspx>
- Relevant Information: Other Practitioner Services/Non-licensed practitioners (page 376)
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/StatePlans/Medicaid%20State%20Plan.pdf>
- Relevant Excerpt

CHW “must be supervised by existing licensed practitioners and perform services for them within the licensed practitioner’s scope of practice. Licensed health providers are responsible for the work that they order, delegate or supervise when health care professionals work under their supervision. The state assures that only the Licensed Health Care Professional will bill for services. For purposes of this State Plan a Licensed Health Care Professional (LHCP) includes Physicians*, Certified Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Dentists, Dental hygienists with an Expanded Practice Permit, Ph.D. Psychologists, PsyD Psychologists, LCSW Social Workers and Licensed Professional Counselors. (*covered in the state plan under physician services)”. . . a) Community Health Worker services are provided under the supervision of LHCP; . . . The state assures that only the Licensed Health Care Professional will bill for services.”

Fee Schedule Information

Medical/Dental Fee Schedule and Behavioral Fee Schedule

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/OHP/Pages/Fee-Schedule.aspx>

- Note: For providers reimbursed at an encounter rate methodology (such as FQHCs, RHCs, and tribal/urban Indian health programs), these codes may be reimbursable under the applicable encounter rate rather than under fee schedule pricing.

Billing Information

Community Health Workers will be enrolled as “non-payable rendering provider”. CHWs must work and bill “under the supervision of a licensed provider”. When the CHW is the rendering provider, OHA will allow the code to pay. The billing provider must be a clinic or supervising medical provider.

Billable Codes for CHW services covered by Oregon Medicaid.

Instructions for billing OHA are on the [OHP Billing Tips page](#).

Service	Description
97535	Self-care/home management training (eg, activities of daily living (ADL) and compensatory training, meal preparation, safety procedures, and instructions in use of assistive technology devices/adaptive equipment) direct one-on-one contact, each 15 minutes
99211	Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, that may not require the presence of a physician or other qualified health care professional. Usually, the presenting problem(s) are minimal. Typically, 5 minutes are spent performing or supervising these services.
99401	Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 15 minutes
99402	Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 30 minutes
99403	Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 45 minutes
99404	Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 60 minutes
99406	Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes
99407	Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intensive, greater than 10 minutes
99408	Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening (eg, AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention (SBI) services; 15 to 30 minutes
99409	Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening (eg, AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention (SBI) services; greater than 30 minutes
99600	Unlisted home visit service or procedure
G0176	Activity therapy, such as music, dance, art or play therapies not for recreation, related to the care and treatment of patient's disabling mental health problems, per session (45 minutes or more)

G0177	Training and educational services related to the care and treatment of patient's disabling mental health problems per session (45 minutes or more)
H0032	Mental health service plan development by nonphysician
H0033	Oral medication administration, direct observation
H0048	Alcohol and/or other drug testing: collection and handling only, specimens other than blood
H2014	Skills training and development, per 15 minutes
H2016	Comprehensive community support services, per diem
H2032	Activity therapy, per 15 minutes
98960	Education and training for patient self-management by a qualified, nonphysician health care professional using a standardized curriculum, face-to-face with the patient (could include caregiver/family) each 30 minutes; individual patient
98961	(see 98960); for 2-4 patients
98962	(see 98960); for 5-8 patients

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