

Master's Level Therapists Pilot Project



Master's Level Therapists (MLTs) enrolled in a new pilot can provide services under an accepted workers' compensation claim through the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). The goal of the pilot is to expand workers' access to behavioral and mental health interventions by allowing the delivery of this care using qualified MLTs.

Qualified MLTs include:

- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers (LICSWs)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs)
- Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs)

Covered services

Injured workers need a referral from their attending provider on a claim to receive behavioral health interventions or mental health treatment from an MLT in the pilot.

Behavioral health interventions

Behavioral health interventions are intended to be a brief course of care with a focus on addressing psychosocial barriers that impede a worker's recovery. Behavioral health treatment for injured workers is voluntary — workers are not required to seek treatment from an MLT even if they receive a referral from their attending provider.

The first set of up to eight visits with an MLT does not require prior authorization by L&I. If the worker is progressing, up to eight more visits can be authorized through a utilization review process, for a maximum of 16 visits for the life of the claim.

Mental health treatment

MLTs in this pilot may deliver appropriate psychotherapy treatment for a mental health condition that has been accepted on a worker's claim; however, MLTs may not diagnose a mental health condition or perform a mental health evaluation. If a mental health condition is contended, it will go through L&I's current mental health authorization process.

Limited number of pilot providers

Up to 300 providers may be enrolled in the pilot initially with a proportionate number allotted for each county.

Questions?

Go to www.Lni.wa.gov/MLT for more information about the pilot, or to apply. If you have any questions, contact us at MLT@Lni.wa.gov.

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