



Collaborative Care FAQ

Seeking psychiatrists for statewide Collaborative Care expansion

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is working with partners at Michigan Care Management Training, (MICMT), Michigan Collaborative Care Implementation Support Team (MCCIST), and Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvements (MICCSI) to expand the use of the Psychiatric Collaborative Care Model (CoCM). One facet of this expansion is to assist in identifying psychiatrists who are interested in contracting with practices or physician organizations for this work.

What is Collaborative Care?

CoCM is a cost-effective, evidence-based integrated behavioral health care model. It uses monitoring from a behavioral health care manager (BHCM) and the expertise of a psychiatric consultant to meet patients' behavioral health needs from the comfort of their primary care office. The psychiatric consultant will support a primary care physician and BCHM by regularly reviewing cases with the BCHM in scheduled systematic case review sessions to provide expertise on all enrolled

What does a consulting psychiatrist do?

The psychiatric consultant supports the collaborative care team through regular consultation on an assigned caseload of patients. The psychiatric consultant advises the prescribing medical provider (PCP) on appropriate medications and other treatment strategies, provides clinical supervision to the BCHM in managing the caseload and also provides the care team with educational support on diagnosing and managing behavioral health conditions. The psychiatrist makes recommendations to the PCP and the PCP implements the recommendations and prescribes the medications.

How much time does it take to perform the consulting psychiatrist work? How much does this pay?

Dedicated psychiatrist time is dependent on the acuity of the patient population, along with clinic and patient panel size. You will negotiate hours and hourly rates directly with the practice. Typically, a psychiatrist would dedicate 1-2 hours a week per half-time BCHM.

Will I see the patients enrolled in CoCM?

In CoCM, the psychiatric consultant supports the primary care team through regular consultation of a caseload of patients. However; the psychiatric consultant can directly assess CoCM patients when needed (e.g., for diagnostic clarification), either in-person or via telemedicine submitting claims using established behavioral health claim processes.

What if I, or the care team, would like the patient to have other behavioral health treatment, such as psychotherapy?

Participation in CoCM does not preclude the patient from other behavioral health treatment options. If the care team decides, or if the patient desires to seek services such as therapy, those benefits would be provided as they usually would according to the patient's benefit design.

I'm interested. What are my next steps?

You can contact the Physician Group Incentive Program (PGIP) Physician Organization (PO) in your area or MICMT at micmt-requests@med.umich.edu for more information.