

Contracting Criteria for Behavioral Health (BH) Providers

All contracting BH health providers must satisfy at least the following criteria:

1. Ensure availability of emergency treatment/intervention, 24 hours a day to all Tufts Health Plan members by a Tufts Health Plan affiliated licensed BH professional
2. Ensure availability of back-up medical coverage by a Tufts Health Plan affiliated psychiatrist
3. Maintain professional liability insurance in amounts of \$1 million per incident and \$3 million aggregate per year
4. Be free of felony convictions or convictions for any crime or moral turpitude, dishonesty, false statement, or acts which may be grounds for suspension or termination of the provider's license to practice.

In addition, contracting BH providers must meet the following criteria as described by the specialties below:

Psychologist

- Doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology from an educational institution, which is either accredited by the American Psychological Association or meets the American Psychological Association's accreditation standards
- Hold a current unrestricted license from the applicable state agency, which licenses psychologists

License Independent Clinical Social Worker

- Master's or Doctoral degree in social work from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education
- Hold a current unrestricted license at the independent Clinical Social Worker level from an applicable state agency which licenses social workers

Licensed Mental Health Counselor

- Master's or Doctoral degree in counseling or pastoral counseling, (i.e., M.S., M.A., M.Ed. or M.Div.) from an accredited educational institution
- Hold a current unrestricted license from the applicable state agency, which licenses mental health counselors.

Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist/Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

- Master's degree in nursing with a specialization in psychiatric and mental health nursing, or a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in a mental health field, which included supervised clinical training
- Hold a current unrestricted license at the RN level, issued by the applicable state agency, and certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center as either a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist or a psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner.

Prescribing Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist/Prescribing Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

- Master's degree in nursing with a specialization in psychiatric and BH nursing, or bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in a BH field, which included supervised clinical training
 - Hold a current unrestricted license at the RN level, issued by the applicable state agency, and certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center as either a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist or a psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Be registered by all relevant state regulatory entities for the prescription of Schedule II through Schedule VI drugs
 - Be registered by the U.S. Drugs Enforcement Administration for the prescription of Schedule II through V drugs
- Have completed 24 contact hours of psychopharmaceutical training, which have been acquired since completion of basic, generic nursing education program

Your application for credentialing/recredentialing will be evaluated by the Tufts Health Plan Quality of Health Care Committee according to the above and other Tufts Health Plan established criteria.