

Medicaid Coverage of Outpatient Gambling Disorder Treatment Services, Effective January 1, 2023

Originally published in October 2022, information updated in February 2023 highlighted yellow.

This document addresses questions from provider organizations and coordinated care organizations (CCOs) about the Oregon Health Authority's work toward adding outpatient gambling disorder treatment services to Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) benefits starting January 1, 2023.

For further questions, please contact the OHA Problem Gambling Services Manager, Greta Coe, at greta.l.coe@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Provider questions and answers

How do I become a Medicaid eligible gambling disorder treatment provider?

Your organization needs to:

- Get the designation of **OAR [309-019-0170](#) - Outpatient Problem Gambling Treatment and Recovery Services** added to your current Certificate of Approval from OHA's Health Systems Division. To do this, contact your designated Compliance Specialist.
- Have the staff person chosen to provide the outpatient gambling disorder services register as a Certified Gambling Addiction Counselor (CGAC) candidate with the [Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon \(MHACBO\)](#) within 30 days of selection.

After MHACBO gives them CGAC-R designation, the staff person can provide outpatient gambling disorder services while working toward completing the required education and experience hours for CGAC I or CGAC II certification. They must obtain certification within 2 years of the date they started providing services.

If you are a provider of a CCO, you may need to ask your CCO if they are ready to contract with your agency for outpatient gambling disorder services.

What training is available for staff pursuing CGAC-I certification?

OHA highly recommends the following training for CGAC candidates:

- Prior to starting services, OHA's [free online treatment course modules](#).
- The [30-hour precertification](#) course to obtain CGAC I certification.
- Whether striving for CGAC I or II certification, a [30-hour part 2 bundle](#) of the precertification course.

All courses are on [the ACORN website](#).

What qualifies a clinician/staff person to provide gambling disorder treatment services?

Registration with MHACBO as a CGAC-R within 30 days of being designated for this position and CGAC I or CGAC II certification within 2 years. A background in substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment is required as many clients present with co-occurring disorders.

Are there other ways to become a certified gambling addiction counselor?

If you don't want to attain certification from [MHACBO](#), you can attain certification through the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board ([IGCCB](#)).

However, IGCCB recertification hours need to be from IGCCB-approved trainings. Oregon's free trainings are not IGCCB-approved trainings, so they cannot fulfill IGCCB recertification requirements.

Who currently provides these services?

Typically, each county has a provider/agency providing gambling disorder treatment through direct non-Medicaid contracts with OHA. To find a list, visit the [OGPR website](#).

Where do I locate additional trainings or technical assistance?

Additional training related to problem gambling can be found at the [ACORN](#) site.

If you need technical assistance related to program developed or just general questions, please reach out to OHA's Problem Gambling Services program at pgs.support@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Are there resources to help with training and certification costs?

[The Problem Gambling Services Workforce Development page](#) has information and resources, including forms to request scholarships and subsidies that may help with training and certification costs.

OHA also offers a free certification consultant program that helps CGAC certification candidates complete the supervision hours required for certification. OHA is looking to expand the workforce and would like to assist providers interested in joining our field.

If ICCGB certification is sought, programs or individuals can apply for scholarships or subsidies through the forms located on the [PGS Workforce Development page](#) to assist with costs for training, consultation, certification and recertification.

What will Medicaid reimbursement be for these services?

For fee-for-service providers or clients, the rate will be the mental health Medicaid rate determined by OHA. All services provided for gambling disorder should be free to the client.

A list of clinical services eligible for fee-for-service providers can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Problem-Gambling/Pages/Treatment.aspx>.

CCOs will determine the reimbursement rate for their providers. Your agency can decide if they agree to the CCO rates and terms.

With many of the gambling disorder procedures similar to substance use disorder and/or mental health, however will gambling disorder providers be identified?

With the use of a specialty code of 022- Gambling Disorder Services. Already enrolled providers will maintain their existing primary specialty and 022 will be added as a secondary. Newly enrolled providers will receive a primary specialty, such as Counselor (specialty number can vary) and will also have 022 as a secondary.

What diagnosis qualified for eligibility for gambling disorder treatment reimbursement?

- F63.0 Gambling Disorder
- Z63.0 Problems in relationship with Spouse/partner
- Z72.6 Gambling and Betting

- Z72.9 Problems with Lifestyle
- Z65.9 – other problems with psychosocial circumstance

When diagnosis from the list above is submitted as the primary diagnosis for one of the PGS procedures, both billing and performing provider are required to have 022 as a secondary in order for claims to pay. Claims for all other providers will deny if PGS diagnosis is primary

How many agencies currently provide gambling disorder treatment services?

There are about 46 agencies across the state providing these services through contracts with OHA. These services are free to the client.

CCO questions and answers

Are CCOs required to cover gambling disorder residential services?

No. These services are not part of the CCO contract and are not included in Medicaid coverage.

OHA has one residential treatment facility for the state, managed by [Bridgeway Recovery Services](#) in Marion County. Any outpatient program can make a referral to this program, provided they have a completed comprehensive assessment demonstrating need for this level of service. Bridgeway accepts clients from across the state. Gambling Disorder Residential Services is free to the client.

How do CCOs ensure member access to outpatient gambling disorder services in a timely manner and meet contractual requirements for providing these services?

There are two ways to ensure access to services:

- Determine if there are local providers interested in providing these services and contract with them. This does not have to occur on or by January 1, 2023. It can be throughout the year or through a phased-in approach.
- If there is insufficient access through CCO-contracted providers, ensure that your providers screen for these services and refer members to one of [OHA's contracted non-Medicaid providers throughout Oregon](#). Clients throughout the state can seek services from any of these providers.

Will OHA require CCOs to provide program development technical assistance to their problem gambling treatment service contractors?

OHA will take on the responsibility of providing start-up and ongoing, regular technical assistance to provider agencies/contractors. This technical assistance will include support in program development and professional development for provider staff. Either the CCO's contracted provider or the CCO will want to contact OHA to get this started. To do this, email pgs.support@dhsosha.state.or.us.