

Provider Notice

To: PerformCare IBHS Providers and IBHS Prescribers
From: Daniel Eisenhauer, Director of Operations
Date: September 19, 2023
Subject: IBHS 23 106 Best Practice Evaluations

This Provider Notice is intended to remind providers of the requirements for a Best Practice Evaluation including which mental health professionals can conduct Best Practice Evaluations under PerformCare's Psychologist Attestation form. The guidelines for Best Practice Evaluations conducted by psychologists or their supervisees apply regardless of whether the Best Practice Evaluation is conducted in a mental health outpatient clinic (08/110 provider type / specialty) or under an individual or group psychology practice (19/190 provider type / specialty).

All psychiatrists and licensed psychologists in the PerformCare network are eligible to provide an IBHS written order via Best Practice Evaluations, whether individually credentialed with PerformCare or working within a licensed mental health outpatient clinic or other facility. All psychologists are required to comply with the supervision requirements outlined in the psychology licensure law when using supervisees under their license to conduct all or part of the Best Practice Evaluation. The licensed psychologist remains fully responsible for the evaluation content and recommendations and must co-sign the Best Practice Evaluation.

A 30 - minute phone orientation on quality standards and approval of credentials from PerformCare are required for any new best practice evaluator.

In addition, psychologists/supervisees conducting Best Practice Evaluations for CABHC members must also be CANS certified before doing Best Practice Evaluations. The CANS certification should be completed and emailed to PerformCare psychologist who conducts the 30-minute phone orientation. This should be done at the time of the orientation or prior, as this is required for approval to begin conducting evaluations.

Best Practice Evaluations must be conducted in compliance with Perform Care Policy CM-CAS-055 https://pa.performcare.org/assets/pdf/providers/resources-information/policies/care-management/2022/CM-CAS-055_03.01.22.pdf. Additional Information about the Life Domain Format can be found here: <https://pa.performcare.org/assets/pdf/providers/education-training/life-domain-format-psych-evaluations.pdf>.

Best Practice Evaluations in the Life Domain Format are not considered psychological testing evaluations but are comprehensive psychosocial assessments. Psychologists and their supervisees must adhere to

supervision requirements of unlicensed individuals published in Chapter 41, State Board of Psychology and the definition of graduate training in psychology amended by the State Board of Psychology per their statement in The Pennsylvania Bulletin from June 5, 2021 (Vol 40, Number 23, p. 2947), which provides that the Board will “interpret this provision as including graduate coursework which could apply to a doctoral degree, including coursework from terminal master’s degree programs.” The Board's interpretation of "graduate training in psychology" does not require enrollment in a doctoral degree program.

Please also refer to Provider Notice MH 23 108 Psychologist and Psychiatrist Attestation Requirements.

Please contact your Account Executive if you have any questions about this Provider Notice.

cc: Lisa Hanzel, Executive Director, PerformCare
Scott Suhring, Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative
Missy Reisinger, Tuscarora Managed Care Alliance
PerformCare Account Executives