



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**Mental Health Services Transmittal No. 7**  
**Behavioral Health Services Organization Transmittal No. 26**  
**June 6, 2024**

**TO:** Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization  
 Community Based Behavioral Health Providers

**FROM:** Sandra Kick, Director *Sandra E Kick*  
 Medical Benefits Management

**RE:** Medicaid Coverage of Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Center Services

**NOTE:** **Please ensure that the appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the content of this transmittal.**

Effective June 1, 2024, Maryland Medicaid will reimburse behavioral health crisis stabilization center (BHSC) services. This transmittal details eligibility criteria, reimbursement, and enrollment procedures for BHSC providers.

### Service Description

BHSC service is the provision of short-term stabilization, assessment, and intervention for individuals experiencing urgent symptoms or behaviors that interrupt their behavioral health functioning. BHSC service is provided in a facility open 24 hours, seven days a week and staffed to manage the full array of behavioral health emergencies including alcohol and substance misuse, symptoms of mental illness, and emotional distress.

This is an outpatient service limited to less than 24 hours and intended to provide the least restrictive environment for individuals at risk for emergency department visits, hospitalization, and incarceration.

### Provider Requirements

Providers must be licensed by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) as a BHSC program and must be actively enrolled in Maryland Medicaid.

To be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, a BHSC provider must meet the following criteria:

- Open and available 24 hours per day, seven days per week;
- Ensure compliance with staffing and service requirements outlined in COMAR 10.63.03.21; and

- Ensure all staff receive crisis training as approved by BHA and receive appropriate supervision in accordance with COMAR 10.63.03.21.

**Reimbursement Methodology**

<b>Procedure Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit of Service</b>	<b>FY 24 Rate Effective 6/1/2024</b>	<b>FY25 Rate Effective 7/1/2024</b>
S9485	Behavioral health crisis stabilization center services	per diem (<24 hours)/per admission episode	\$721.21	\$742.85

Providers may additionally bill one (1) office-based Evaluation and Management code per admission episode for evaluations rendered by a psychiatrist or psychiatric nurse practitioner.

**Provider Enrollment**

Providers must enroll with Maryland Medicaid after obtaining the BHA-issued BHCSC license. Providers will need to complete an application via Maryland Medicaid’s Electronic Provider Revalidation and Enrollment Portal ([ePREP](#)) and submit the following documentation:

- Copy of signed IRS W-9 form;
- Copy of BHA license for BHCSC;
- Completed and signed BHCSC provider addendum;
- Pre-employment background check results for each staff member; and
- Copy of agency background check policy

A site visit will be required to finalize Maryland Medicaid enrollment.

ePREP resources and guidance are available on our website here: <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/provider/Pages/enrollment.aspx>

The BHCSC addendum is available for download on our website here: <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/provider/Pages/eprepforms.aspx>

For policy questions related to this transmittal, please contact [mdh.mabehavioralhealth@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.mabehavioralhealth@maryland.gov).