
LPCANC Medicare Alert

Dear Fellow LCMHC's, Mental Health Colleagues and Advocates,

Your Advocacy is Needed!

This year, as the month of December comes to a close, advocacy is in action for Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors thru the **MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE COALITION**. The Medicare Mental Health Workforce Coalition is comprised of various national mental health provider associations (e.g. AMHCA, NBCC, ACA, and others) have been working together to advance our professionals as Medicare providers and close the current mental health coverage gap in federal law that excludes Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) from direct billing and reimbursement under Medicare.

While we are closer to getting this legislation to final passage, there are **limited days that we have left to advance this legislation**.

THE REASON FOR THIS EMAIL: We need YOU - and EVERY COUNSELOR, and EVERY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE...EVERYONE - TO USE OUR VOICES - LOUD & STRONG - to highlight, promote and advance this legislation at the forefront of Congress' agenda in these final days of the 117th Congress.

What is the MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE COALITION?

The Medicare Mental Health Workforce Coalition is a group of national and state organizations collectively representing hundreds of thousands of mental health and addiction disorder providers, clients, patients, and other stakeholders committed to strengthening Medicare beneficiaries' access to mental and behavioral health care, building the provider workforce we need, and modernizing coordination of delivery and payment systems for that care.

- *LPCANC'S National Association - [AMHCA](#) (American Mental Health Counselors Association) is a member of the Medicare Mental Health Workforce Coalition.*
- ***The Coalition's Goal?** To increase access to client choice for mental health provider care by passing the [Mental Health Access Improvement Act](#) (S.828/H.R.432).*

What Does S.828/H.R.432 Do?

- Provides coverage for licensed mental health counselor (LMHC) and marriage and family therapist (LMFT) services under Medicare.
- Authorizes mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists to develop discharge plans for post hospital services.

So, What Are We Asking You To Do?

1. Use [Congress.Gov](https://www.congress.gov)
2. Contact Your Elected U.S. Senator And Representative:

CONGRESS.GOV [Members of the U.S. Congress](https://www.congress.gov)

3. Use this Sample Text for Your Email (copy & paste as desired):

With more than 200,000 Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors (also known as Licensed Professional Counselors) who are highly trained and prepared to meet the urgent behavioral health needs of America's Medicare population, your support is crucial for the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (HR 432/ S 828) to help close the current mental health coverage gap.

The growing mental health crisis among our Medicare population must requires attention and must be addressed. Licensed Counselors (LCMHCs/LPCs) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) are under utilized and make up an estimated 40% of all master's level mental health practitioners nationwide. This bill would enhance and increase the available mental health workforce by more than 200,000 additional providers to help meet the critical needs of the Medicare population and address this issue.

Adding these providers would save America's healthcare system money by investing in early interventions to improve outcomes before mental and physical conditions become serious mental illnesses (SMI), costing the healthcare system significantly more money.

Today, I am asking that you support the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (HR 432/ S 828) to help close the current mental health coverage gap and provide access to quality mental health providers.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. Please reach out to your congress today to get **S.828/H.R.432** passed!

Sincerely,

Carmen Davis

Carmen Davis, Ph.D., LCMHCS
LPCANC President