



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J353

Date: January 7, 2020

To: Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

From: Renee Rader, Acting Assistant Director of Services and Supports, DMH/DD/SAS
Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, NC Medicaid

Subject: State-Funded Behavioral Health Urgent Care service definition

This bulletin informs LME-MCOs that effective Feb. 1, 2020, the State-funded Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC) service definition will go live and supersede any existing alternative BHUC service definitions. A copy of the service definition can be found at <https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/State-Funded-Behavioral-Health-Urgent-Care--BHUC---effective-2-1-2020.pdf> on 12/23/19.

BHUC is a designated service for individuals four (4) years or older experiencing a behavioral health crisis related to a substance use disorder, mental health disorder, intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) diagnosis or any combination of the above.

The BHUC service is designed to provide triage, crisis risk assessment, evaluation and intervention to individuals whose crisis response needs are deemed to be urgent or emergent. BHUC is an alternative, but not a replacement, to the Emergency Department (ED) in a community hospital. Individuals receiving this service will be evaluated, then stabilized and/or referred to the most appropriate level of care.

A BHUC Center can either be classified as a Tier III or a Tier IV facility.

If an agency is operating a service that does not meet the requirements for a Tier III or a Tier IV BHUC, the agency can no longer be identified as a BHUC, and may continue to provide services as a same day walk-in clinic.

Agencies providing BHUC will be required to use the following billing codes effective Feb. 1, 2020:

BHUC Assessment	BHUC Observation
T-2016 U5	T-2016 U8

Effective Feb. 1, 2020, the following codes will be end-dated for BHUC use:

YA324 - Crisis Evaluation and Observation
YA369 - Crisis Evaluation and Observation

If you have any questions, please contact Stacy A. Smith at 919-715-2368 or stacy.smith@dhhs.nc.gov.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at:

www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins

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