

The Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) enables the clinical team to implement measurement-informed care plans based on evidence-based practice guidelines for common mental health problems. Each clinical team member plays a distinct role in CoCM, with key clinical, administrative, and billing responsibilities.



Pediatrician

Clinical: Reviews mental health screening assessments, discusses CoCM with the patient/guardian, and refers patient with positive screens to CoCM if appropriate. Facilitates education, enrollment, patient engagement, prescriptions for recommended medications, and maintenance care once patient reaches an evidenced-based treatment target.

Administrative: Obtains patient/caregiver consent and communicates with CoCM team.

Billing: CoCM billing is processed under the referring provider (i.e., pediatrician), so patient's medical benefits are utilized instead of behavioral health benefits.

Behavioral Health Care Manager (BHCM)

Clinical: Provides primary behavioral health support for patients through behavioral health assessments, measurement-based care, and brief evidence-based interventions. Meets with patient/caregiver directly for initial and follow-up assessments and to administer brief therapeutic interventions as needed.

Administrative: Maintains patient registry to track progress, meets weekly with psychiatric consultant to review caseload, and communicates regularly with the pediatrician. Licensure requirements vary by state and payer (many do not require licensure although behavioral health specialized training is recommended as a best practice) and BHCM does not need to be contracted with insurance panels, although, in some cases payers may require to be notified of the BHCMs on staff.

Billing: Records monthly minutes spent on CoCM services for each patient, which are logged in registry and submitted to billing team.

Psychiatric Consultant

Clinical: Provides psychiatric expertise through direct contact with the BHCM and pediatrician but, in most cases, has no direct contact with the patient. Supervises the BHCM and works with the BHCM and pediatrician to make treatment recommendations and create personalized care plans for each patient.

Administrative: Can be Psychiatrist, Physician Assistant (PA), or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) licensed in the same state as the pediatrician and does not need to be credentialed with patient's insurance. Holds weekly meetings with BHCM to develop care plans and make medication recommendations.

Billing: Consultation provided by psychiatric consultant is accounted for in valuation of CoCM codes.

Patient

Clinical: Actively participates in their treatment; remains in direct contact with both the BHCM and pediatrician.

Administrative: Provide verbal consent prior to enrollment in CoCM.

Billing: In some cases, responsible for a co-pay based on insurance but medical benefits are billed for behavioral health services.

