

1915(i) and 1915(b)(3) Supported Employment/NC Core Individual Placement and Support – Supported Employment (IPS-SE) Update

Prior authorization is not required for 1915(i) and 1915(b)(3) Medicaid NC CORE IPS-SE. This change is effective Oct. 1, 2024.

Members receiving services under I/DD or TBI will continue to receive H2023U4 1915(i) Supported Employment. Users should continue to follow prior authorization and documentation guidelines for H2023U4 1915(i) Supported Employment.

For members receiving Behavioral Health services, no medical necessity determination will be rendered for:

- 1915(i) Medicaid NC CORE IPS-SE.
- 1915(b)(3) Medicaid NC Core IPS-SE.
- Important information regarding the 1915(b)(3) to 1915(i) transition.
 - 1915(b)(3) services under the NC Medicaid Direct Benefit Plan will be phased out by December 31, 2024. Providers will not be able to use the 1915(b)(3) codes after that date.
 - Members need to complete transition to 1915(i) by November 30, 2024, or to another appropriate service prior to December 31, 2024.
 - The expectation is that the 1915(i) Independent Assessment will be completed before any 1915(b)(3) service is authorized for initial or concurrent review for NC Medicaid Direct members.
- State-funded NC CORE IPS-SE. No prior authorization is required. Benefit limits have not changed.

1915(i) Medicaid NC CORE IPS-SE:

Category	Details
Service Name	1915(i) NC Core Individual Placement and Support (IPS) – Supported Employment
Service Code	H2023 (U4)
Prior Authorization Required?	No
Benefit Limit	No prior authorization required. 1 unit = 1 event Annual units based on medical necessity. Milestone 1: Engagement— 1 unit = 1 event Milestone 2: Intake Career Assessment— 1 unit = 1 event Milestone 3: Job Development with Retention—Incentive billing code. Bill VR directly. Multiple billable units, per episode of care. Bill VR directly. 1 unit = 1 event Milestone 4: Job Support & Vocational Recovery— Multiple billable units per episode of care. Bill VR directly. 1 unit = 1 event Milestone 5: VR Closure—Incentive billing code. Bill VR directly. Multiple billable units per episode of care. Bill VR directly. 1 unit = 1 event

	Milestone 6: Long-Term Follow-Along—1 unit per month, multiple months, per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event. 1 documented face-to-face contact with member per month. Milestone 7: Vocational Advancement—Up to 3 units per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event. Milestone 8: Educational Attainment—Up to 3 units per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event. Milestone 9: Successful IPS Closure Outcome Payment to Provider—1 unit per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event.
Age Group	Target Group(s): Serious Mental Illness (Age 16+) Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (Age 16+) Serious Emotional Disturbance (Age 16+) Severe substance use disorder (Age 16+)
Level of Care	1915i Independent Evaluation Eligibility Criteria Met LOCUS (optional): 1-4 ASAM: 0.5-2.5
Source	8H-2
Documents Required for Authorization	No Prior Auth Required. No documentation needed for UM. Documentation needed for the medical record: • Annual Care Plan/PCP or Updated Care Plan/PCP, updated signature page • Service Order (qualified professional, licensed psychologist, licensed behavioral health clinician, physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant) • 1915i Independent Assessment Milestone 1: Engagement—No documentation needed. Milestone 2: Intake Career Assessment—Intake Career Profile and Service Order (may be signed by a QP). Milestone 3: Job Development with Retention—Updated Follow-Along Support Plan (in Career Profile or Separate Document). Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP. Milestone 4: Job Support and Vocational Recovery—Updated Follow-Along Support Plan (in Career Profile or Separate Document). Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP. Milestone 5: VR Closure—Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP. Milestone 6: Long-Term Follow-Along—Individual case note. Milestone 7: Vocational Advancement—Updated Follow-Along Support Plan (in Career Profile or Separate Document). Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP. Milestone 8: Educational Attainment—Follow-Along Support Plan (in Career Profile or Separate Document). Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP.

	Milestone 9: Successful IPS Closure Outcome Payment to Provider—Updated Career Profile with Vocational Recovery and Independence Plan in notes.
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1915(b)(3) Medicaid NC Core IPS-SE:

Category	Details
Service Name	1915(b)(3) NC Core Individual Placement and Support (IPS) – Supported Employment
Service Code	H2023 (U4)
Prior Authorization Required?	No
Benefit Limit	No Prior Auth Required 1 unit = 1 event Annual units based on medical necessity. Milestone 1: Engagement—1 unit = 1 event Milestone 2: Intake Career Assessment—1 unit = 1 event Milestone 3: Job Development with Retention—Incentive Billing Code. Bill VR directly. Multiple billable units per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event Milestone 4: Job Support & Vocational—Multiple billable units per episode of care. Bill VR directly. 1 unit = 1 event Milestone 5: VR Closure—Incentive Billing Code. Bill VR directly. Multiple billable units per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event Milestone 6: Long Term Follow-Along—1 unit per month, multiple months, per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event. 1 documented face-to-face contact with member per month. Milestone 7: Vocational Advancement—Up to 3 units per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event. Milestone 8: Educational Attainment—Up to 3 units per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event. Milestone 9: Successful IPS Closure Outcome Payment to Provider—1 unit per episode of care. 1 unit = 1 event.
Age Group	18+
Level of Care	LOCUS (optional): 1-4 ASAM: 0.5-2.5
Source	IPS-SE
Documents Required for Authorization	No Prior Auth Required. No documentation needed for UM. Documentation needed for the medical record: Milestone 1: Engagement—No documentation needed.

	Milestone 2: Intake Career Assessment—Intake Career Profile and Service Order (may be signed by a QP). Milestone 3: Job Development with Retention—Updated Follow-Along Support Plan (in Career Profile or Separate Document). Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP. Milestone 4: Job Support and Vocational Recovery—Updated Follow-Along Support Plan (in Career Profile or Separate Document). Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP. Milestone 5: VR Closure—Updated Follow-Along Support Plan (in Career Profile or Separate Document). Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP. Milestone 6: Long-Term Follow-Along—Individual case note. Milestone 7: Vocational Advancement—Updated Follow-Along Support Plan (in Career Profile or Separate Document). Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP. Milestone 8: Educational Attainment—Follow-Along Support Plan (in Career Profile or Separate Document). Follow-Along Support Plan can be signed by QP. Milestone 9: Successful IPS Closure Outcome Payment to Provider—Updated Career Profile with Vocational Recovery and Independence Plan in notes.
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All services must meet medical necessity criteria as outlined in the clinical coverage policy. Claims payment is contingent upon member funding eligibility during the authorization period and the service provider’s contract.

NC Core Code implementation for New 1915(i) and 1915 (b)(3)

The State has determined that rather than using modifiers to delineate the milestone associated with the Placement and Support service, this information should be reported by the providers in the Demonstration Project Identifier segment on the claim form. This information is captured in the REF*P4 segment in Loop 2300 of an 837 professional claim. The provider will continue to submit procedure code H2023 – Supported Employment but will designate the milestone through the REF*P4 segment but not a modifier combination. The format of the REF*P4 segment will also contain an indication of the program, in addition to the milestone being reported.

In place of the Phase 1 code combinations, providers should submit the following information:

Code	Modifier	1915(i) and 1915(b)(3) Service	New 1915(i) Designation	New 1915(b)(3) Designation
H2023	U4	NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 1 – Engagement	REF*P4*1915I-M1	REF*P4*1915B3-M1
H2023	U4	NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 2 – Intake/Career Assessment	REF*P4*1915I-M2	REF*P4*1915B3-M2
H2023	U4	NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 3A –IPS Job Search, EIPD Ineligible	REF*P4*1915I-M3A	REF*P4*1915B3-M3A

		NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 3B – IPS Employer Networking, EIPD Ineligible	REF*P4*1915I-M3B	REF*P4*1915B3-M3B
		NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 3C – IPS Job Placement + 3 Days Support, EIPD Ineligible	REF*P4*1915I-M3C	REF*P4*1915B3-M3C
H2023	U4	NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 4 – Job Support and Vocational Recovery, EIPD Ineligible	REF*P4*1915I-M4	REF*P4*1915B3-M4
H2023	U4	NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 5A – IPS Vocational Recovery + 30 Days	REF*P4*1915I-M5A	REF*P4*1915B3-M5A
		NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 5B – IPS Vocational Recovery + 60 Days	REF*P4*1915I-M5B	REF*P4*1915B3-M5B
		NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 5C – IPS Job Placement + 3 Days Support	REF*P4*1915I-M5C	REF*P4*1915B3-M5C
H2023	U4	NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 6 – Long-Term Follow-Along	REF*P4*1915I-M6	REF*P4*1915B3-M6
H2023	U4	NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 7 – Vocational Advancement	REF*P4*1915I-M7	REF*P4*1915B3-M7
H2023	U4	NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 8 – Educational Attainment	REF*P4*1915I-M8	REF*P4*1915B3-M8
H2023	U4	NC CORE Individual Placement Support Milestone 9 – Successful IPS Closure Outcome Payment to Provider	REF*P4*1915I-M9	REF*P4*1915B3-M9

Changes for submitting claims:

Claims submitted via the Portal (CMS1500).

- The Milestone will be designated by field 19 of the CMS 1500 form. Z modifiers will no longer be used.
 - For NC Core IPS-SE claims, the format of field 19 will contain an indication of the program, in addition to the milestone reported.

19. ADDITIONAL CLAIM INFORMATION(Designated by NUCC) *

1915i-M1

- For IDD claims with procedure code H2023 U4, field 19 should be populated as IDD or NA. This was a change to differentiate from the claims that require a milestone.

19. ADDITIONAL CLAIM INFORMATION(Designated by NUCC) *

IDD

Note: Field 19 is now mandatory for submission of portal claims with H2023 U4 procedure code.

Claims submitted via an 837

- The incoming 837 for supported employment claims with procedure code H2023 U4 should contain the Ref *P4 segment (The format of the REF*P4 segment will contain an indication of the program, in addition to the milestone reported).

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CLM*2280735*1590***11:8:1*Y*A*Y*Y~  
REF*G1*Basic IPS~  
REF*P4*191583-M9~  
HI*ABK:F315~  
LX*1~  
SV1*HC:H2023:U4*1590*UN*1***1~  
DTP*472*D8*20240806~
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- IDD - 837 claims with procedure code H2023 U4 without the Ref * P4 segment will be processed as IDD claims.

For questions or additional guidance, email:

- Tailored Care Management: TailoredCareManagement@PartnersBHM.org
- Utilization Management: UMQuestions@PartnersBHM.org
- Claims: ClaimsDepartment@PartnersBHM.org