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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**2019 Wisconsin Act 122**  
[2019 Assembly Bill 650]

**Coordination of Care in  
Substance Abuse Overdose and  
Peer Recovery Coach  
Reimbursement**

## 2019 WISCONSIN ACT 122

The act relates to the coordination and continuation of care following an overdose and to reimbursement for peer recovery coach services under the Medical Assistance (MA) program.

### Coordination of Care in Substance Abuse Overdose

The act requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish and maintain a program to facilitate overdose treatment providers<sup>1</sup> to provide certain services and education and to collect and evaluate outcomes data on patients receiving peer recovery coach services and coordination and continuation of care services. The act allows DHS to establish policies and procedures to provide guidance on the provision of medications that reverse an overdose or treat a substance use disorder or on continuation of, or referral to, evidence-based treatment services for patients with a substance use disorder who have experienced an overdose. DHS is required under the act to seek any funding available from the federal government, including grant funding under the federal SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, to establish and maintain the program or establish the policies and procedures.

### MA Reimbursement for Peer Recovery Services

The act requires DHS to certify peer recovery coaches and to reimburse peer recovery coach services<sup>2</sup> under the MA program. To be eligible for reimbursement:

- The recipient of the peer recovery coach service must be in treatment for or recovery from mental illness or a substance use disorder.
- The peer recovery coach must provide the service under the supervision of a “competent mental health professional”<sup>3</sup> trained in certain subjects.

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<sup>1</sup> The act defines “overdose treatment provider” to mean an entity, including an emergency department of a hospital, that offers treatment or other services to individuals in response to or following a substance use overdose.

<sup>2</sup> The act defines “peer recovery coach” as an individual who practices in the recovery field and who provides support and assistance to individuals who are in treatment or recovery from mental illness or a substance use disorder.

<sup>3</sup> Under the act, a “competent mental health professional” is a physician who has completed a residence in psychiatry; a psychologist or a private practice school psychologist licensed under ch. 455, Stats.; a marriage and family therapist licensed under s. 457.10 or 457.11, Stats.; a professional counselor licensed under s. 457.12 or 457.13, Stats.; an advanced practice social worker granted a certificate under s. 457.08 (2), Stats.; an independent social worker granted a certificate under s. 457.08 (3), Stats.; a clinical social worker licensed under s. 457.08 (4), Stats.; a clinical substance abuse counselor or independent clinical supervisor certified under s. 440.88, Stats.; or any of these individuals

- The peer recovery coach must complete all of the following training requirements:
- Forty hours of training in advocacy, mentoring and education, recovery and wellness support, and ethical responsibility. This training must include:
- At least 10 hours in advocacy.
- At least 10 hours in mentoring and education.
- At least 10 hours in recovery and wellness support.
- At least 10 hours in ethical responsibility.
- Twenty-four hours of supervised volunteer or paid work experience involving advocacy, mentoring and education, recovery and wellness support, ethical responsibility, or a combination of those areas.

The act also grants DHS emergency rule-making power to establish the training requirements for peer recovery coaches and requires that DHS must request any federal approval necessary to implement the reimbursement.

**Effective date:** March 5, 2020

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practicing under a currently valid training or temporary license or certificate granted under applicable provisions of ch. 457, Stats. The act provides that a “competent mental health professional” does not include an individual whose license or certificate is suspended, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered, or whose license or certificate is limited or restricted, when practicing in areas prohibited by the limitation or restriction.