



## Position Statement on Treatment of Highly Specialized Populations

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Behavioral health is committed to helping its members access the best possible care. This statement recognizes that various aspects of patient choice and culture play a role in treatment success. One aspect of culture relates to specific types of employment that may impact a member's willingness to accept treatment and also the need for treatment programs that are specifically prepared to address issues in unique employment populations. Behavioral health understands that within our client population these unique groups exist, and that they require special attention in developing and selecting resources for treatment.

Examples of such highly specialized groups include members who work in law enforcement and health care. Law enforcement officials are at risk for behavioral health conditions including substance use issues. It is difficult for members who work in law enforcement to participate in local treatment programs because their ability to function in their jobs can be compromised when they are treated in the same setting as the citizens they either serve, or the individuals they arrest. Recognizing that, Behavioral health is aware that a number of substance use disorder treatment programs are specifically designed to accept and treat law enforcement officers. Healthcare professionals face similar challenges in terms of appropriate treatment settings. In some states there are diversion programs specifically designed to treat licensed healthcare professionals. When that resource is not available, an alternative specialized program must be considered. In all of these programs, special attention is paid to the unique nature of the individuals requiring treatment.

The Plan's policy is to authorize care at programs prepared to treat special populations such as healthcare professionals and law enforcement officials for members of those groups who are willing to accept treatment. Behavioral health recognizes that some of these programs may not currently be part of the Plan's provider network; however, in situations where behavioral health is seeking treatment for a specialized individual, behavioral health will make every effort to develop a single case agreement (SCA) with the facility and if possible bring that facility into the Plan network. This effort to bring the program into the network will occur whether the program is for the Plan's full population or specialized groups only. When behavioral health recognizes the need of a specific group member for this type of treatment, behavioral health will treat this program as in network whether the program completes an SCA, joins the network, or chooses to remain out of network.

Behavioral health is committed to obtaining the best possible outcomes in treatment for all of its members and recognizes that there will need to be specific and unique treatment management for highly specialized groups. The initial groups falling within this policy include law enforcement officers, penal system guards, first responders, healthcare professionals and other impaired professionals. Behavioral health may add to this list as needed by bringing forward other groups to be approved by the Behavioral Health Clinical Leadership Committee and then added to this policy.