



Nursing Facility Behavioral Care Units (BCUs)

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1. What is a Behavioral Care Unit (BCU)?
2. What does the program look like?
3. What are eligible behaviors?
4. What is the initial application process?
5. What is the annual renewal process?



- BCU is a Medicaid designation for approved nursing facilities that provide care to individuals with high needs behaviors.
- BCUs receive a higher direct care cost cap and typically have a higher per diem.
- After approval for BCU designation, BCUs must reapply on an annual basis.
- A change in IDAPA shortening the qualification period from one year to 60 days and the addition of the Nursing Facility Quality Payment Program has contributed to an increase in the number of BCUs in Idaho.



- Aspen Park of Cascadia - Moscow
- Bell Mountain - Bellevue
- Caldwell Care of Cascadia - Caldwell
- Canyon West of Cascadia - Caldwell
- Cascadia of Boise - Boise
- Cascadia of Nampa - Nampa
- Clearwater of Cascadia - Orofino
- Coeur d' Alene of Cascadia - Coeur d' Alene
- Desert View Care Center - Buhl
- Gateway Transitional Care Center - Pocatello
- Lewiston of Cascadia - Lewiston
- Lincoln County Care Center - Shoshone
- Meadow View Nursing and Rehabilitation - Nampa
- Mini-Cassia Care Center - Burley
- Mountain Valley of Cascadia - Kellogg
- Oak Creek - Kimberly
- Orchards of Cascadia - Nampa
- Parke View - Burley
- Shaw Mountain of Cascadia - Boise
- Valley Vista of Sandpoint - Sandpoint
- Valley Vista of St. Maries - St. Maries



- The nursing facility must have a description of their program and facility, types of populations/diagnoses served and any restrictions on behaviors that are not admitted.
- Psychiatrist or physician extender must consult as needed for assessments and available for emergency services
- LMSW, LPC or LSW with behavioral experience must consult as needed and make periodic site visits, assist with assessments, behavioral intervention planning and implementation
- Both of these professionals must be available to participant in Weekly Behavioral Management Team Meetings as needed.



- Behavioral training for staff must include:
 - Assessment and prevention
 - Medication and side effects
 - Effects of disease process on mood state
 - Safety techniques
 - Comprehensive environmental techniques
 - Comprehensive environmental intervention
 - Stress management
 - Documentation/charting
- Annual re-training and education for interventions and safety techniques for applicable staff
- Training on deflecting aggression and/or target behaviors for appropriate staff and other participants safety



- As documented in care plans and behavioral management for each resident, the program must include:
 - Participants meet criteria for continued stay
 - Individualized care plans based on assessment of cognitive and functional abilities with a behavior analysis with strategies for prevention and intervention for all BCU participants
 - 30 day assessments of progress made by each participant and reviewed by the Behavior Management Team
 - Comprehensive behavior monitoring to track and trend intensity and daily occurrence of behaviors, success of interventions and behavior modifications used
 - Attempts to involve family and/or responsible parties
 - Recreational and activity programming that meets the needs of individual participants and corresponding behaviors
 - Attempts at integration into general resident population as appropriate
 - Community outings as appropriate
 - Attempts to step down to meet discharge criteria from the program when participants have a declining need for the program



- Each BCU must have discharge criteria from the program and/or nursing facility as listed below. A participant need only meet one of the criteria listed.
 - Documented improvement that enables the participant to transfer to less restrictive environment
 - Documented lack of benefit from the program
 - Documented consistent refusals by participant to allow for interventions that have been determined to be helpful
 - Documented acute danger to self or others that is not manageable with current staff resources
 - Documented acute physical illness/complication requiring a higher level of care



- Participant must meet nursing facility level of care, AND
- Must have a medically based behavior disorders that causes a significant diminished capacity for judgement, information retention and/or decision making skills AND/OR
- Have a medically based mental health disorder and has a high level resource use.
- In addition, participants must have a history or currently demonstrates need for additional resources due to disruptive behaviors as evidence by **at least** one of the following behaviors:
 - Intrusive wandering
 - Verbal Abuse
 - Physical Abuse
 - Socially Inappropriate/Disruptive
 - Resistance to necessary cares



- Intrusive Wandering – wandering without rational purpose, especially wandering into other resident rooms, areas that are off limits for residents, frequent exit seeking
- Verbal Abuse – threats, offensive language, yelling towards staff and/or residents
- Physical Abuse – hitting, kicking, spitting, biting, pinching, etc.
- Socially Inappropriate/Disruptive – screaming, calling out (instead of call light use), sexually inappropriate behaviors, throwing food, hoarding, etc.
- Resistance to Care – refusing treatment(s) that places participant's health and safety at risk, refusing normal cares that may risk health and safety of the participant or other residents.

**These are examples of behaviors, not an exhaustive list.*

***Participant behaviors must occur frequently enough and require staffing and program resources that exceed typical nursing facility standards in order to provide appropriate care to the individual.*



- Nursing facilities must operate as a behavioral care unit for 60 days prior to submitting an application.
- 20% of the total Medicaid Bed Days must be provided to participants meeting the characteristics listed in the previous two slides.
- Documentation must be provided to validate all aspects of the BCU program as outlined in IDAPA 16.03.10.
- Hundreds to thousands of pages of documentation are submitted by each nursing facility and reviewed by one person.
- Typically takes 8 weeks per application and usually because additional information is requested.
- Once the review of the application is completed, the list of participants meeting the outlined characteristics along with a census of the 60 day period is provided to Medicaid's accounting firm to complete the bed days calculation.
- Once the calculation is complete, the nursing facility receives a letter indicating approval/denial and if approved, the rates are adjusted by DXC for calims.



- Each year nursing facilities must reapply for BCU status.
- The renewal process is much shorter than the application process.
- The process typically starts in mid February and completed by mid June at the latest.
- Medicaid requests a roster of all residents from the last year from each BCU.
- Once the rosters are approved, Medicaid pulls a sample and requests the last assessment from each resident.
- After review, the accounting firm calculates the number of Medicaid bed days that were provided to BCU participants.
- Once calculations are complete, BCUs are sent a letter either approving or terminating BCU status.



- BCU Webpage
 - <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Medical/Medicaid/NursingFacilityQualityPaymentProgram/BehavioralCareUnit/tabid/4570/Default.aspx>
- Questions about BCU rules and process, contact
 - Alex Childers-Scott, Alexandria.Childers-Scott@dhw.Idaho.gov
- Questions about BCU rates and reimbursement
 - MedicaidReimTeam@dhw.Idaho.gov