



**VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA (VAC)
PROGRAM OF CHOICE (POC) 12 – RELATED HEALTH SERVICES
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – UPDATE
ALL PROVINCES**

January 2022

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) wishes to advise of a new benefit for mental health services in all provinces under Program of Choice (POC) 12 – Related Health Services, **effective March 10, 2021.**

The following new benefit code is effective as of March 10, 2021

Benefit Code	Description	Benefit Information
249015	Health Professional – Neurofeedback/Biofeedback	Pre-authorization: required Rate: Current Health Professional rates apply* Frequency: 25/1 CY

*Where services of a certified technician are utilized to administer treatment (in place of a Health Professional), this should be reflected in the rate charged.

Neurofeedback/biofeedback may be approved when the following conditions are met:

- It is provided as an **adjunct** to first line evidence-based treatment for one of the following conditions:
 - Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD);
 - Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD); or
 - Major Depressive Disorder (MDD).

The following information is required by VAC as part of the funding request:

- a clinical recommendation/rationale **from the first-line treating mental health professional** (e.g. primary psychologist, primary psychiatrist, general practitioner, etc.) to add as an adjunct treatment; and
- a treatment plan **from the neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback service provider** which includes:
 - condition being treated;
 - what is the first line treatment;
 - number of sessions recommended; and
 - duration of treatment.

The intervention must be provided or overseen by a VAC-approved mental health service provider in-person and on-site in a clinical setting.

The VAC-registered mental health service providers and technicians administering neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback must have certification from the **Biofeedback Certification International Alliance (BCIA)**. The BCIA is the only training and certification body recognized by the three major international membership organizations (the Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback (AAPB); the Biofeedback Federation of Europe (BFE); and the International Society for Neuroregulation and Research (ISNR)).

- The VAC-approved mental health service provider, certified as a neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback practitioner, can utilize the services of a certified neurofeedback technician. However, the practitioner must be on site when the neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback sessions are held. The certified practitioner remains responsible for:
 - the development, implementation and updating of the neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback treatment plan
 - reporting on the neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback treatment, including liaising and collaborating with the Veteran's primary therapist; and
 - maintaining details of billing including who provided the neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback services.
- The technician or neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback practitioner administering the treatment must be in the room with the Veteran at all times to ensure the individual stays on task and received proper coaching during the session.
- The rate that applies is that of the health professional who is administering the neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback treatment.
- If first-line treatment is provided by a primary therapist and neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback is provided by a separate certified neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback practitioner, the certified neurofeedback/EEG biofeedback practitioner may not also provide first-line treatment.
- For Veterans who are currently in receipt of Neurofeedback/EEG Biofeedback and their provider is not BCIA certified, treatment may continue for up to a year to allow for certification.
- Neurofeedback/EEG Biofeedback is not a service available to family members.

Providers shall charge the lesser of the rate charged by the provider to any patient paying cash for the same service/product, up to the maximum rate contained in the benefit grids.

For details pertaining to fees and claims submission requirements, please refer to the Claims Submission Agreement and related supporting documentation found on the Medavie Blue Cross website at www.medaviebc.ca and click on the Health Professionals link. On our website you will also find important information on how to:

- register to access our secure ePay provider portal by clicking on the Register or Update link;
- sign up for direct deposit; and
- view provider guides and benefit grids, download provider payment schedules and other important information.

Should you have any questions, please contact Medavie Blue Cross at 1-888-261-4033.

Thank you for the ongoing care and service that you provide to our Veterans.