

Behavioral Health Providers

Psychologist- A psychologist is a doctoral level behavioral health provider who is licensed by the state of Colorado to provide psychological services. A psychologist must have earned a doctoral degree (Ph.D., Psy.D., Ed.D.) from an accredited university in psychology, completed at least a one-year clinical internship and a one-year clinical post-doctoral training or residency, as well as pass both state and national examinations in order to have a license and practice. Psychologists are trained to diagnose and treat behavioral health and mental health conditions. They are usually the only behavioral health provider who can legally administer and interpret psychological testing, and are generally well trained in (EBM) evidence based medicine procedures for treating psychiatric conditions. Psychologists with specific training may prescribe medications in Louisiana and New Mexico.

Psychiatrist- A psychiatrist is a physician who is licensed by the state of Colorado to provide psychiatric treatment. A psychiatrist must have earned a medical degree (M.D., D.O.) or, (MBBS and others in the U.K., Canada) from an accredited school of medicine, completed a psychiatric residency (3 years or more), and pass both state and national examinations in order to have a license to practice. Psychiatrists are trained to diagnose and treat psychiatric conditions, and usually specialize in using psychotropic medications as well as other medical procedures in addition to psychotherapy.

Mid-level Medical Providers- There are various degrees and licenses that allow a person to be a mid-level medical provider including *nurse practitioners(PNP,FNP)*, *clinical nurse specialists(CNS)*, *physician's assistants(PA-C)*, and *nurse anaesthetists*, and they vary from state to state. In Colorado you may be treated by a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist as well as a physician's assistant for psychiatric conditions. Mid-level medical providers are not doctors, but are generally licensed to provide medical care and prescribe medications under the supervision of a physician. Mid-level providers are usually specialists in one area of medicine, and rarely provide psychotherapy or other forms of behavioral health treatment.

Psychotherapists- There are various degrees and licenses that allow a person to be a psychotherapist including *licensed clinical social worker(LCSW)*, *marriage and family therapist(MFT)*, *licensed professional counselor(LPC)*, and in Colorado some psychotherapists are not licensed. All psychotherapists used by the mental health centers or NBH are licensed professionals or are supervised by licensed professionals. Psychotherapists are trained in various forms of psychotherapy to help either treat a psychological condition or to help a person through the recovery process. All licensed psychotherapists have earned at least a master's degree in counseling, social work, or psychology (depending on license type), and are adept at providing a wide variety of services for behavioral health consumers. All licensed psychotherapists must pass a standardized state examination in order to receive their license. Psychotherapists do not prescribe medications.

In Colorado all Behavioral Health Providers are licensed and monitored by:

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/>

1560 Broadway, Ste: 1350

Denver, Co. 80202

(303) 894-7764