

Frequently Asked Questions



What is YAP-P?

YAP-P (Youth Access to Psychiatry Program) is a free program administered through S.C. Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) to increase access to timely, effective mental and behavioral health care for children and adolescents.

YAP-P works with primary and pediatric care providers to offer direct access to critical psychiatric consults, clinical trainings, and resource and referral services.

What services does YAP-P offer?

- Free provider-to-provider psychiatric consults with child and adolescent psychiatrists
- Community and behavioral health resources and referrals
- Continuing education and clinical trainings for CME and MOC credits
- Patient referrals to direct services
- Educational resources for providers and families
- Practice registration for easy access to the YAP-P consult line, trainings and resources

Who can use YAP-P's child psychiatric consult line?

Any prescribing primary or pediatric care provider who works with children and adolescents 21 years of age or younger can use the YAP-P consult line.

How does the consult line work?

It's simple. Call the YAP-P consult line (877-729-2779) and a care coordinator will collect some basic information, then set up a phone or virtual consult directly with one of our child and adolescent psychiatrists.

YAP-P psychiatrists can help you with patient diagnostic clarification, medication management guidance, screening and treatment options, referrals to one of South Carolina's mental health centers and more, all regardless of patient insurance. And our care coordinators can make connections to community resources to get your patients the additional support they need.

How quickly will my consult request be answered?

Calls to the YAP-P consult line are answered within one business day.

What information will YAP-P need from me when I call for a consult?

A YAP-P care coordinator will ask for the following basic information when you call our consult line:

- Patient age
- Patient insurance status
- Clinician name, NPI #, phone and email
- General reason for consult
- Whether a behavioral health screening was conducted in prior 12 months

Is there a cost to providers for using YAP-P services?

No, there is no cost to primary care providers using YAP-P services. It is a free program supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$445,000 with 20% financed by SCDMH.

Can patients and families use YAP-P services?

YAP-P is a provider-to-provider program. We offer mental and behavioral health education resources for patients and families via guides and handouts for use in your practice, and online family resources at yap-p.org.

Can YAP-P psychiatrists consult directly with my patients?

No, YAP-P psychiatrists are available for consults with prescribing primary or pediatric care providers working with children and adolescents 21 years of age or younger. If needed, YAP-P psychiatrists can help facilitate patient referrals directly to one of South Carolina's 16 mental health centers.

Please be aware that the YAP-P psychiatrist is not assuming care of your patient or prescribing to that patient when you seek a consultation. The call is a conversation between two providers and does not establish a patient relationship between the YAP-P psychiatrist and your patient.

My practice already has a procedure in place to refer patients to local mental health providers. Why would I need YAP-P services?

It's great you have a procedure for making referrals for behavioral health care services when needed. However, many of South Carolina's communities lack pediatric behavioral health resources, and not every patient with a mental health issue needs to see a mental health professional. YAP-P is designed to help you become well-equipped to manage mild to moderate behavioral health needs for your patients. In addition, behavioral health providers – especially those serving children and adolescents – often have extensive wait times. YAP-P helps fill the gap in care by providing you with expert consultation, resources and training in a variety of modalities.

When I consult with YAP-P, do you send me something to put in the patient's chart?

At this time, YAP-P doesn't provide a consult summary document. We encourage you to document your consultation in the patient medical record, but it is up to you to decide what to include. YAP-P doesn't collect Protected Health Information on patients, but each consult is assigned an encounter number that could be used to verify a consult. Providers are free to consult with YAP-P as many times as needed regarding a given patient.

Who is responsible for getting consent from my patient for me to consult with YAP-P? Is an authorization to disclose information required?

YAP-P activities are covered under the treatment, payment and health care operations provisions of HIPAA. While we hope you are discussing with your patient and/or their parents when you plan to consult with YAP-P, a release is not required.

Why should I register my practice with YAP-P as opposed to just calling the consult line when needed?

As an added benefit to primary and pediatric care providers, YAP-P can register your entire practice, making it even faster and easier for any of your clinicians to use the consult line. As a registered practice, individual provider information is pre-loaded into our system and the practice can take advantage of additional training and education opportunities.

When you register your practice with YAP-P, we ask you to designate a point of contact or "clinic champion" to promote awareness and use of the YAP-P consult line within your practice, share new training opportunities, provide up-to-date patient and family education materials, and serve as the contact person for YAP-P communications.

What is the YAP-P Partnership Agreement? What are the benefits?

The YAP-P Partnership agreement outlines the services YAP-P provides and defines how we partner. This allows us to build a framework to enhance capacity and capability of practices to manage mental and behavioral health conditions.

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