**Comparable Training for Licensed Mental Health Professionals**

*Medicare covers mental health services when provided by psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health clinical nurse specialists and clinical social workers. Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) and Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) are not covered, despite the fact that both groups have education, training and practice rights equivalent to or greater than existing covered providers. Both LPCs and MFTs are licensed for independent practice in all 50 states, and are covered by private sector health plans.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) | Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) | Licensed Associate Marriage & Family Therapist (LAMFT) | Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT) | Licensed Social Worker (LSW) | Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) | Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) |
| **Education** | Master’s or doctoral degree in mental health counseling or a related field (min 60 credits) | Master’s or doctoral degree in mental health counseling or a related field (min 60 credits) | Master’s or doctoral degree which qualifies for licensure as a marriage and family therapist (min 60 credits) | Master’s or doctoral degree which qualifies for licensure as a marriage and family therapist (min 60 credits) | Bachelor’s degree | Master’s or doctoral degree in social work | Master’s or doctoral degree in social work |
| **Experience** | 1,000 hours supervised experience in a graduate program | 2,000 hours of post-graduate supervised practice (3,000 hours total) | 1,000 hours supervised experience in a graduate program | 3,000 hours of supervised experience in marriage and family therapy | None for licensure | None for licensure | 3,000 hours of post-graduate supervised clinical practice |
| **Licensure Required** | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **National**  | ~120,000 | ~55,000 | ~200,000 |
| **Idaho**  | 1162 | 887 | 14 | 269 | 1,813 | 1,326 | 1,266 |
| **Medicare** | No | No | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |

*\*Title of licensure varies by state*