

“R” Privilege Has Been Retired

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Why has the “R” been removed from the Insurance Laws:

The “R” statute was passed initially as a requirement for mandatory group insurance reimbursement in 1985 when the Clinical Society initiated and supported the second insurance reimbursement law for mental health services. It required 6,000 hours of supervised clinical experience after completing the MSW and passing the Social Work Certification exam (which is now the LMSW level exam).

In 2022 an insurance reimbursement bill was passed for the LMHCs, LM&FTs and LPs giving them the diagnostic privilege. In order to have the identical requirements for insurance reimbursement, “R” requirement for insurance reimbursement removed for LCSWs.

What the “R” means now: It indicates an LCSW has extensive additional supervised experience compared to those who are merely licensed as mental health professionals. It had required 36 months of additional supervised psychotherapy experience.

We have been told those LCSW who have earned an “R” may keep it.

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