

Memo

Date: May 13, 2024
To: Alameda County Behavioral Health Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Providers (SMHP)
From: Karen Capece, Quality Management Program Director 
Subject: Billing for Student Services

IMPORTANT: Attention SMHP Providers Billing for Student Services

On February 26, 2024, the Behavioral Health Department (BHD) communicated requirements via [memo](#), for agencies that utilize clinical trainees for BHD claimed services must update their SmartCare staff designation.

- Student codes (Procedure Codes with prefix-**STDNT**) are no longer necessary and are **inactive** as of Wednesday, May 1, 2024.
- Activities provided by clinical trainees must be reported with procedure codes consistent with others of their discipline (e.g., LCSW = ASW = SW Clinical Trainee).
- When entering services provided by clinical trainees in SmartCare, the name of the clinical trainee's supervisor must be noted in the Attending field. Clinical Trainees must be set up as Review Required in Clinician's Gateway. Claims for services provided by Clinical Trainees that do not report a supervisor's National Provider Identifier (NPI) will be denied.
- To update your staff designation to the appropriate clinical trainee, please submit a [Mental Health Service \(MHS\) SmartCare Staff ID Number Request Form, "Step 1"](#) e-form as soon as possible. You must be logged into [Citrix](#) or connected to County VPN to access the form. On the request form, please make sure to indicate the License Start Date, as the date the staff person met the definition of a clinical trainee. This will allow the activities provided by clinical trainees to be reported with procedure codes consistent with others of their discipline (e.g., LCSW = ASW = SW Clinical Trainee) on their effective date - forward.

On July 6, 2023, BHD communicated in a [memo](#) California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Payment Reform changes for student services and clarified reimbursement for contractors for individual and group psychotherapy services provided by students for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-24 (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023). BHD is committed to minimizing impact for providers and beneficiaries where possible and in the absence precise instructions. The requirements for updating staff were due no later than March 11, 2024. Therefore, BHD is extending the reimbursement period through the third quarter of this fiscal year (July 1, 2023-March 31, 2024).

Support

ACBHD is fully committed to supporting our providers to implement the guidance described in this memo. For documentation-related questions please contact QATA@acgov.org. For IS/CG/EHR-related questions, please contact HIS@acgov.org.