

Memo

Date: April 9, 2025

To: Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Medi-Cal Providers

From: Torfeh Rejali, LMFT, Division Director, Quality Assurance (QA) *Torfeh Rejali*

Subject: Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) 90-Day Rule and the New BBS-Candidate Designation

This memo is to inform providers about a new process **effective April 14, 2025**, that enables Marriage Family Therapists (MFT), Professional Clinical Counselors (PCC) and Clinical Social Work (CSW) candidates who are awaiting their registration numbers from the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) to submit claims to Medi-Cal as Registered/Associate providers (e.g. AMFT, APCC, ACSW).

Background

Per [BHIN 24-023](#), Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) changed the definition of “registered” providers to include individuals who are *in the process of* obtaining registration as CSW, MFT, and PCC candidates, as well as individuals whose registrations as candidates for these licensure types have been approved by the BBS.

This means that CSW, MFT and PCCs who are in the process of obtaining their registration numbers from the BBS may claim Medi-Cal as registered providers while their associate registration application is being processed and before they have received their registration numbers. However, in the event their application is not approved by BBS, the services provided by these individuals are not Medi-Cal reimbursable.

New ACBHD BBS-Candidate Designation

To accommodate this change, ACBHD has created a new Professional Suffix/License Type of **BBS-Candidate**. This designation provides access to an expanded set of procedure codes allowable for registered providers.

The process for obtaining this designation and detailed requirements are published in a document titled [Requesting ACBHD BBS-Candidate Provider Designation](#). This document is posted in section 12 of the [QA Manual](#) on the ACBHD Provider website.

Action Required

Please share this information with your teams, as appropriate.

Support

This and other relevant topics are reviewed during monthly Brown Bag meetings. Meeting information and links are posted on the [QA Training](#) page. For questions, please contact QATA@acgov.org.