

Memo

Date: January 12, 2026

To: Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Providers

From: Torfeh Rejali, Division Director, Quality Assurance *Torfeh Rejali*

Subject: Changes to Clinician's Gateway SMHS Assessment Templates and Training

Purpose

This memo is to provide information regarding changes to SMHS assessment templates in Clinician's Gateway (CG). The changes will be launched on **February 3, 2026**.

Background

Effective July 2022, with the publication of [BHIN 22-019](#) and [BHIN 23-068](#), Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) standardized assessment requirements to include multiple domains.

Per BHIN 23-068, a domain is a reference to categories of information that should be captured within the SMHS assessment. The assessment may be in any format so long as the assessment domains and components are included, and the assessment information is comprehensive, consolidated, and can be produced and shared as appropriate to support coordinated care, in accordance with applicable state and federal privacy laws.

ACBHD communicated this information to providers and began auditing to this requirement starting in July 2022.

Change to CG Assessment Templates

Updated Assessment Templates

The following clinical templates have been updated in CG to match the DHCS standardized domains:

- **Assessment Psychiatric MH**
- **Assessment Mental Health**

Both templates should be used for initial assessments as well as updates to those assessments.

The templates are set up to automatically import relevant information from the previously completed template by the same name. For example, when an *Assessment Mental Health* template is completed for a member on admission and an update is needed, a new *Assessment Mental Health* template should be created and will automatically import relevant information from the initial assessment.

Name Change

The name of the *Assessment Update* template has been changed to *Diagnosis Update*. The content of this template has not changed. **The *Diagnosis Update* template should be used to document**

changes to diagnosis and rationale for those updates. It should no longer be used to update an assessment, except during the transition period, as noted below.

Documenting Assessment Updates During the Transition Period

While relevant information will import from a previous *Assessment Psychiatric MH* and a previous *Assessment Mental Health* template into a new template by the same name, nothing will import from the previous versions of these assessment templates into the new ones.

If an assessment was completed prior to the launch of the new templates and needs to be updated, providers have the following options:

- For significant changes to an assessment, create a new assessment using the new assessment templates.
- For small changes, either use the Diagnosis Update template until the client is discharged, or create a new assessment using the new templates.

Once a new *Assessment Mental Health* template is created, future updates can be easily made by opening a new *Assessment Mental Health* template, importing relevant information and updating the appropriate sections.

Updates to Diagnostic Impression Section

QA and IS/IT have overhauled CG's *Diagnostic Impression* section to conform with FY25-26 and DSM-5-TR standards. The changes impact all CG forms that include a *Diagnostic Impression* section and include updates to the fields within the *Diagnostic Impression* section, as well as the codes that populate each dropdown.

Provider training

The QA Division is offering live training to review these changes. A recording of the training will be posted on the [QA Training](#) page for providers who cannot attend a live presentation. Please use the links below to register for the session of your choice.

Changes to SMHS Assessment Templates in Clinician's Gateway

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 1:00-2:00

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3954654606155302488>

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 10:00-11:00

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4619098278913415008>

Action Required

Please notify your teams regarding these changes and register for a training or listen to a recorded training, as appropriate.

For questions, please contact QATA@acgov.org.