

## Memo

**Date:** January 30, 2026

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

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

**Subject:** Required Timeframes for Assessments

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The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification regarding required timeframes for completing clinical assessments.

### Background

The CalAIM Documentation Redesign initiative, led by Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), went live on July 1, 2022. This initiative significantly changed the Medi-Cal documentation requirements, including eliminating required timeframes for completion of initial and annual assessments.

### Assessment Timeframes

CalAIM Documentation Redesign requires providers to complete assessments within a reasonable time and in accordance with generally accepted standards of practice and an individual's clinical needs. There is no longer a requirement to complete annual assessments routinely for all Medi-Cal members. Updates to assessments must be completed as clinically appropriate when new, relevant clinical information becomes available.

### Medi-Medi Plans

Although ACBHD Quality Assurance Division does not provide guidance regarding Medicare regulations, our research shows that Original (traditional) Medicare also does not require annual assessments for behavioral health services as a condition of coverage. Additional rules may apply with Medicare Advantage (MA) plans and are plan specific. Providers are advised to review those rules as needed when serving clients with these types of plans.

### Resources

- [CalMHSA Documentation Guides- MH Services](#)
- [CalMHSA Documentation Guides- Substance Use Disorder Services](#)
- Medicare Resources:
  - [Noridian](#)
  - [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)- Medicare and MH Coverage
  - [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#)- Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation and Psychotherapy Services

### Action Required

Please share this information with your teams. Contact [QATA@acgov.org](mailto:QATA@acgov.org) for questions.