

- MEMORANDUM -

DATE: May 31, 2022

TO: All Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Providers

FROM: Torfeh Rejali, Quality Assurance (QA) Administrator *Torfeh Rejali*

SUBJECT: **California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Resources Available Immediately**

This memorandum announces the availability of recently published training and resources related to the CalAIM redesign for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS).

Background

CalAIM is a California initiative led by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that aims to provide broad delivery system, program, and payment reform across the Medi-Cal system. The goal of the initiative is to transform the Medi-Cal delivery system, moving it towards a population health approach that prioritizes prevention and whole person care. The vision is to “meet people where they are in life, address social drivers of health and break down the walls of health care.”

Since December 2021, DHCS has published a number of Behavioral Health Information Notices, outlining specific changes to Medi-Cal requirements based on the CalAIM initiative. The following is an overview of the policy changes as well as the expected Go-Live dates for each.

Policy	Go-Live Date
Criteria for Specialty Mental Health Services	January 2022
Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System 2022-2026	January 2022
Drug Medi-Cal ASAM Level of Care Determination	January 2022
Updated Annual Review Protocol and Reasons for Recoupment FY 2021-2022	January 2022
Documentation Redesign for Substance Use Disorder & Specialty Mental Health Services	July 2022
Co-Occurring Treatment	July 2022
No Wrong Door	July 2022
Updated Annual Review Protocol and Reasons for Recoupment FY 2022-2023	October 2022
Standardized Screening & Transition Tools	January 2023
Behavioral Health CPT Coding Transition	July 2023
County Behavioral Health Plans Transition to Fee-for-Service and Intergovernmental Transfers	July 2023
Administrative Behavioral Health Integration	January 2027

California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) is a Joint Powers of Authority that provides administrative and fiscal services in support of Behavioral Health Departments. CalMHSA, on behalf of the counties, has assumed scopes of work to support the statewide implementation of CalAIM behavioral health initiatives. CalMHSA’s scope of work includes development of required Policies and Procedures, Communication Plans and Materials, Documentation Guides, and Web-based Training Videos. Alameda County has adopted and intends to continue to utilize the resources developed by CalMHSA to support the roll out of the CalAIM initiative.

CalMHSA CalAIM Resources

The following resources are available for immediate use:



- **Website:** [CalMHSA's CalAIM Webpage](#) is a valuable resource for information and training tools. We recommend you check this page frequently for updates.
- **Manuals:** CalMHSA recently published the [Documentation Manual for Outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services](#). This manual includes detailed information about the new CalAIM documentation requirements for outpatient SMHS.
- **Training:** CalMHSA utilizes [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) to provide web-based training videos and is expected to publish a series of training videos in the coming weeks. *You must create an account first in order to access the training videos.* Below are a list of videos that are either available now or expected to be released in the very near future:
 - CalAIM Overview Training: available now
 - CalAIM Standardized Assessment: available soon
 - CalAIM Diagnosis/Problem List: available soon

Alameda County Resources

In addition to resources developed by CalMHSA, ACBH has created reference documents to support providers with the roll out of the CalAIM changes. Many have been shared through memos and are accessible on the Provider website [Quality Assurance](#) page.

In addition to references previously shared, ACBH recently developed a *Documentation Quick Reference Guide*, attached to this memo, that highlights the new documentation requirements for SMHS and DMC-ODS services. Please note that this document is written in the exact language that was provided by the State. Areas that need clarification will be clarified in training documents and FAQs. This guide is being provided as a simple tool for communicating the documentation changes to staff.

Next Steps and Ongoing Support

- **Collaborative Approach:** ACBH QA and our Behavioral Health Collaborative partners have been working closely to review the new requirements and discuss changes needed to processes, reference documents and note templates within the county's Electronic Health Systems. Additionally, ACBH multi-divisional team meetings have been occurring on a weekly basis to identify and address necessary system changes. ACBH will continue to engage stakeholders in discussions related to impact of CalAIM changes to existing processes.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):** ACBH QA has published CalAIM FAQs in Section 19 of the [QA Manual](#) on the Provider Website. The document will be updated with new questions and answers in the coming weeks. Notification will be sent to providers at that time.
- **CalAIM Orientation Town Hall:** ACBH QA is planning Town Halls to provide an overview of the CalAIM changes and answer questions. The meetings will focus on the CalAIM conceptual shifts, revision of access criteria for SMHS and DMC-ODS services, and documentation requirements for SMHS and SUD services. More information will be shared once these Town Halls are scheduled.
- **Brown Bags:** ACBH will continue to utilize Brown Bag meetings to review the changes and answer questions. Please make note of these meetings and participate as you are able:
 - **SMHS Brown Bags:** Every other Friday from 12pm-1pm. Next meeting is on June 3, 2022.

Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/173324541>



United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073; United States: +1 (646) 749-3129
Access Code: 173-324-541

- **DMC-ODS Brown Bags:** Third Thursday of each month from 12pm-1pm. Next meeting is on June 16, 2022.

Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/486928181>

United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679; United States: +1 (224) 501-3316
Access Code: 486-928-181

Action Required

Please communicate these changes to your teams, as appropriate. Note that CalAIM documentation changes are effective on 7/1/2022.

For questions, please contact QATA@acgov.org.

