

**- MEMORANDUM -**

DATE: February 8, 2022

TO: All Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Providers

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

SUBJECT: **Adult and Child Behavioral Health Screening Forms**

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This memorandum announces a change to the requirement to include a copy of the completed Brief Screening Form in the client's chart.

**Background:**

Currently Alameda County SMHS providers, with the exception of Out of County, Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), Workers, Crisis, Conservatorship, Guidance Clinic and STAT programs, are required to save the completed Behavioral Health Screening Form in the client's chart as evidence that the client meets SMHS criteria. Inclusion of the tool in the client's chart has been a Quality Item reviewed during chart audits.

**Effective immediately, inclusion of the Adult or Child Behavioral Health Screening Form in the client chart is no longer required.** With the release of the [BHIN 21-073](#) on December 10, 2021, providing details related to the new Access Criteria (Medical Necessity), the content of the existing BH Screening tool is no longer relevant. Additionally, the State is creating standardized Screening and Transition Tools that are expected to be released in January 2023.

Given these changes, the County is removing the requirement that providers include a copy of the BH Screening form in the clients' charts and will no longer be checking for these documents during audits. Instead, the County will be reviewing the chart notes for clinical documentation demonstrating evidence that the client meets SMHS criteria based on the new guidance. Providers are encouraged to continue to use a screening tool to ensure that clients meet Medi-Cal requirements. The attached **Behavioral Health Screening Tool for Outpatient Services** is being offered by the County as an optional resource.

For providers using Clinician Gateway (CG), completion of the BH Screening Tool within CG will no longer be required.

We will continue to review new information during monthly Brown Bag meetings and welcome questions and opportunities for clarification of the many significant changes. Brown Bags are scheduled every other Friday from 12pm-1pm. **The next Brown Bag meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 10, 2022, at 12pm** to accommodate the observance of President's Day on Friday February 11, 2022. If you do not have the meeting already on your calendar, below is the link and call-in information:

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

We appreciate your partnership and look forward to seeing you at the next Brown Bag meeting. For questions, please contact [QATA@acgov.org](mailto:QATA@acgov.org).

