

**- MEMORANDUM -**

DATE: April 10, 2023  
TO: Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Contracted Providers  
FROM: Torfeh Rejali, Quality Assurance (QA) Administrator *Torfeh Rejali*  
SUBJECT: **Payment Reform and Training for CPT Code Billing**

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This memorandum is to make providers aware of helpful resources, including recorded training programs, related to CalAIM Payment Reform transition to CPT code billing.

**Background**

Beginning July 1, 2023, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Payment Reform initiative will change the way county behavioral health plans claim federal reimbursement. The initiative consists of three different transitions: Reimbursement Structure, Financing Mechanism and Provider Billing.

Changes related to Provider Billing involve transitioning from the use of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPC) codes to Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Codes. **Note:** HCPC codes will continue to be used for non-clinical services and services provided by non-licensed staff.

**Available Resources**

ACBH Billing and Benefits and Contracts teams have been working diligently to prepare for changes resulting from CalAIM Payment Reform. California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), on behalf of the counties, has assumed scopes of work to support the statewide implementation of CalAIM behavioral health initiatives, including developing training and resource documents.

Below are several helpful resources, developed by CalMHSA and others, that can be utilized to better understand and prepare for these changes:

**CalMHSA's Recorded Training Programs:**

- CPT Code 101- Introduction to CPT Codes
- CPT Code 102- Optimization of CPT Codes for Majority of Behavioral Health Services

Presentation slides and recorded trainings are available on the [CalMHSA Payment Reform Webinar Page](#).

**CalMHSA's CPT Code Reference Guides:**

- CalAIM Reference Guide for CPT Codes- Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS)
- CalAIM Reference Guide for CPT Codes- Drug Medical Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)

These Reference Guides were created using the DHCS Billing Manuals. They include multiple tabs, listing SMHS and DMC-ODS services and corresponding procedure codes pre and post July 2023. Additionally, they include other critical information such as allowable disciplines, modifiers and Add-on codes, place of



service, lockouts, etc. on the “CalAIM Manual Extract” tab. The Guides can be accessed on the [CalMHSA CalAIM Reference and Manuals](#) website.

**DHCS Billing Manuals:**

- Specialty Mental Health Medi-Cal Billing Manual (Revised 1/2023)
- Drug Medi-Cal ODS- Medi-Cal Billing Manual (Revised 1/2023)

These manuals provide a detailed description of the processes and rules relative to Short Doyle/Medi-Cal (SD/MC) claims processing and are posted on the DHCS [County Claims Customer Service Library](#) in the section titled “CalAIM References and Manuals Effective July 1, 2023”.

**CalAIM Payment Reform Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document:**

The ACBH Finance Division issued a [CalAIM Payment Reform FAQ](#) that contains responses to frequently asked questions from ACBH providers related to changes to reimbursement structure.

ACBH will be developing other tools and resources to support providers with this transition and will provide communication as they become available.

**Action Steps**

Please share this information within your teams, as appropriate. As you have specific questions related to Payment Reform or areas that you would like further clarified, please submit them to [QATA@acgov.org](mailto:QATA@acgov.org).

For questions, please contact [QATA@acgov.org](mailto:QATA@acgov.org).

