

- MEMORANDUM -

DATE: July 10, 2023
TO: All Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Providers
FROM: Torfeh Rejali, Quality Assurance Division Director *Torfeh Rejali*
 Brion Phipps, Interim Quality Assurance Associate Administrator *Brion Phipps*
SUBJECT: Payment Reform and SmartCare Professional Suffix Updates

The purpose of this memo is to notify ACBH providers of updates to staff designation and professional suffixes resulting from CalAIM payment reform changes and ACBH’s implementation of the SmartCare billing system.

Information about the Changes

As part of the California Department of Healthcare Services’s (DHCS) Payment Reform changes effective 7/1/23 and ACBH’s transition to SmartCare, there are a number of changes to Speciality Mental Health Services (SMHS) and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) provider types. Both SmartCare and the e-form used to request SmartCare access have been updated to reflect these changes.

The allowable provider types between SMHS and DMC-ODS mostly overlap, but there are some notable differences as specified in the far left column of the table below.

Provider Types Effective 7/1/23

MH or SUD Only	DHCS Billing Manual Discipline	SmartCare Discipline – License Type/Degree, Professional Suffix	Professional Suffix
	Psychiatrist/Physician	• Licensed Psychiatrist/Physician – Medical Doctor	MD
		• Licensed Psychiatrist/Physician – Doctor of Osteopathy	DO
		• Post-Graduate Physician Resident – PTL	PTL
	General Pharmacist or Advanced Practice Pharmacist	• Registered Pharmacist – RPH	RPH
		• Advanced Practice Pharmacist – APH	APH
	Clinical Nurse Specialist	• Clinical Nurse Specialist – CNS	CNS
	Nurse Practitioner	• Nurse Practitioner – NP	NP
		• Nurse Practitioner Furnishing – NPF	NPF
		• Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – PMHNP	PMHNP
	Registered Nurse	• Registered Nurse – RN	RN





MH and SUD (ONLY OTP/NTP DOSING)	Licensed Vocational Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed Vocational Nurse – LVN ¹ 	LVN
	Social Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed Clinical Social Worker – LCSW Associate Social Worker – ASW 	LCSW ASW
	Professional Clinical Counselor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor – LPCC 	LPCC
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Family – LPCC-F 	LPCC-F
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Professional Clinical Counselor – APCC 	APCC
	Marriage and Family Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist – LMFT 	LMFT
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Marriage and Family Therapist – AMFT 	AMFT
MH Only	Occupational Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational Therapist – OT 	OT
MH Only	Mental Health Rehab Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Rehab Specialist – MHRS 	MHRS
	Psychologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed Psychologist (PsyD) – PsyD 	PsyD
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed Psychologist (PhD) – PhD 	PhD
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waivered Psychologist (PsyD) – PsyD-W 	PsyD-W
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waivered Psychologist (PhD) – PhD-W 	PhD-W
	Physician Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physician Assistant – PA 	PA
MH Only	Psychiatric Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychiatric Technician – PT 	PT
MH Only	Other Qualified Provider – Adjunct/Unlicensed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Partners – FP 	FP
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Certified Peer Specialist – NCPS 	NCPS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFC Parents – TFCP 	TFCP
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Adjunct 	Other Adjunct
	Certified Peer Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified Peer Specialist – CPS 	CPS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified Peer Specialist (Family) – CPS-F 	CPS-F
SUD Only	SUD Counselor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUD Counselor Licensed 	SUD Counselor Licensed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUD Counselor Certified 	SUD Counselor Certified

¹ LVNs in DMC-ODS are only allowed at NTP/OTP programs and may only administer MAT/medications.





		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUD Counselor Registered	SUD Counselor Registered
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admin/Clerical	Admin/Clerical

Mental Health Students in SMHS

Individuals actively enrolled in graduate educational mental health programs are considered students. These are individuals who are not registered with the corresponding licensing board. With the roll out of CalAIM Payment Reform, Medi-Cal guidance, as described in the DHCS SMHS Billing Manual ([v 1.4](#)), indicates that students should use taxonomy codes based on their education, training, and experience within the Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist (MHRS), Other Qualified Provider, and peer specialist disciplines. These changes prevent ACBH from claiming for psychotherapy services (individual/family/group) provided by students.

To minimize the impact of this new requirement on providers and beneficiaries, ACBH will continue to reimburse contractors for individual and group psychotherapy services provided by students for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-24 (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023). After the first quarter, based on DHCS guidance, ACBH will provide further updates. See [ACBH memo](#) dated 7/6 for more details.

Mental Health Students in DMC-ODS ²

Recent legislation ([CA Assembly Bill 1860, Ch. 523](#) and H&SC 11833) allows for individuals enrolled in mental health graduate programs to provide services in DMC-ODS. ACBH has sought additional clarification from DHCS regarding some outstanding questions on implementation of this change. As soon as we get clarification, ACBH will work towards allowing these individuals to claim for DMC-ODS services.

Information for Clinician’s Gateway Users

New Clinician’s Gateway (CG) accounts will use this new set of professional suffixes starting 7/1/23. Existing staff suffixes will be migrated from CG-InSyst into CG-SmartCare (CG-SC) and will be used in CG-SC e-signatures. The suffixes imported into CG-SC may not align with the new suffixes in the SmartCare billing system. To fix this, submit a CG Staff Authorization e-form for an individual (or by attaching a spreadsheet of desired updates for multiple staff to the single request).

Action Required

Please communicate this information to your teams, as appropriate.

For questions, please contact QATA@acgov.org.

² Please refer to DHCS BHIN 23-008 for additional information on this topic

