

- MEMORANDUM -

DATE: January 18, 2023
TO: Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Providers
FROM: Torfeh Rejali, Quality Assurance (QA) Administrator *Torfeh Rejali*
SUBJECT: **Planned ACBH and DHCS Mental Health Audits for 2023**

This memorandum provides information regarding planned SMHS audits and reviews for 2023.

Background: The contract between ACBH and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requires ACBH to certify that claims made to Medi-Cal meet Federal and State requirements for Medical Necessity and documentation. In addition to the monthly [Clinical Quality Review Team \(CQRT\)](#) process that providers are required to complete, the ACBH QA team is required to complete annual audits of SMHS clinical charts.

Additionally, DHCS facilitates a triennial system and chart audit of ACBH contracted programs.

ACBH Mental Health Audits

The QA Team is in the process of completing an audit of SMHS clinical charts for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022. Individual provider findings are expected to be released on or before May 2023.

A new SMHS Audit for FY 2022-2023 (July 1, 2022, June 30, 2023) is planned in early May. Providers selected for this audit should expect to hear from QA sometime between March-May 2023. Selected charts will be for dates of service September 1, 2022 to November 31, 2022. Any disallowances will be based on the [Medi-Cal SMHS Reasons for Recoupment FY 22-23](#) document that was published by DHCS in December 2022.

DHCS Mental Health Audits and Reviews

DHCS has scheduled a FY22/23 triennial outpatient chart review and technical assistance review for March 28, 2023. The review will be in two parts:

- Part 1: Technical assistance review of five (5) randomly selected clinical charts (3 children and 2 adults) of Medi-Cal beneficiaries who began receiving services after July 1, 2022, when the CalAIM documentation changes were implemented. The purpose of this review is to evaluate how well agencies have implemented the CalAIM documentation changes and to provide feedback and recommendations to ACBH for improvement. This will be a “survey only” review and is not expected to result in any disallowances.





MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

- Part 2: Review of five (5) randomly selected children's charts that correspond to a sampling of paid ICC/IHBS claims. This will be consistent with prior chart reviews and will result in findings and may result in disallowances per the DHCS Disallowance reasons.

Clinical notes are due to the State in February. Selected agencies will be contacted by ACBH in the next few weeks with a request for specific chart notes and are asked to be prompt in providing the needed documentation to ACBH. Additionally, selected agencies are asked to make themselves available for ad hoc consultation during the DHCS audit, in case additional information or documentation is requested by the reviewers.

Next Steps: This is an informational memo. No action is required at this time. We appreciate your cooperation if your agency is selected for any of these reviews or audits.

For questions, please contact QATA@acgov.org.



Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services

A Department of Alameda County
Health Care Service Agency