

- MEMORANDUM -

DATE: January 23, 2024
TO: All Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Medi-Cal providers
FROM: Torfeh Rejali, Quality Assurance Division Director *Torfeh Rejali*
Brion Phipps, Quality Assurance Interim Associate Administrator *Brion Phipps*
SUBJECT: **ACBH Practice Guidelines Manual**

The purpose of this memo is to inform providers of the launch of a new ACBH Practice Guidelines Manual.

Background

Per state¹ and federal² regulations, as well as the Mental Health Plan (MHP) contract and DMC-ODS Intergovernmental Agreement, ACBH is required to develop and adopt clinical practice guidelines for use across behavioral health delivery systems. To meet this requirement ACBH has developed a single, universal practice guidelines manual for both mental health and substance use treatment providers.

Development of ACBH's Practice Guidelines

ACBH's practice guidelines were developed through collaboration, input, and approval from internal system leaders and external partners. The information presented in the manual were current and included all evidence-based practices (EBPs) required in ACBH's behavioral health delivery systems at the time of publication. To meet the changing clinical needs of our community, expansion of required EBPs, and to ensure that the information within the document is current, ACBH will periodically update the manual.

Expectations and Provider Next Steps

ACBH's Practice Guidelines Manual is available for viewing and download on the [QA Manual](#) page of the [ACBH Provider website](#).

There have been no changes to existing DHCS requirements related to use of specific EBPs and practice guidelines by Substance Use Disorder providers. These are clearly documented in the manual. With the exception of these required guidelines, the clinical practices described in the manual are not intended to be prescriptive. When determining clinical services, practitioners must always account for the individual's unique characteristics, culture, and preferences.

To ensure beneficiaries are receiving the highest quality of clinical care possible, ACBH will monitor the use of appropriate and required practice guidelines during annual chart audits.

For questions, please contact gata@acgov.org.

¹ [9 CCR § 1810.326](#)

² [42 CFR § 438.236](#)

