


Memo

Date: November 12, 2024
To: Alameda County Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Providers
From: Torfeh Rejali, Quality Assurance Division Director 
Subject: New SMHS Supplemental Documentation Guide

This memo is to inform Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) SMHS providers regarding a new Supplemental Documentation Guide that is available and expands upon information contained within the CalMHSA Documentation Guides.

Background

The CalAIM Documentation Redesign, launched in July 2022 and clarified in [BHIN 23-068](#), significantly changed the Medi-Cal documentation requirements. Alameda County adopted and continues to utilize the resources developed by CalMHSA, including the [Clinical Documentation Guides](#) posted on their website. The link to these documents is also available in Section 7 of the [QA Manual](#) on the provider website.

New SMHS Supplemental Documentation Guide

Although the CalMHSA Documentation Guides include detailed information about the specific documentation requirements, there are areas that are not covered in detail and/or where additional clarification is needed.

To meet this need, ACBHD has developed a [Supplemental Documentation Guide for SMHS](#) that includes additional information for providers, including but not limited to, Informing Materials and consent requirements, scope of practice, provider notification requirements, service descriptions and billing and network adequacy reporting requirements. This document is posted in section 7 of the [QA Manual](#) and replaces the *Clinical Documentation Standards Policy and Procedures* document that was previously published.

This Supplemental Documentation Guide complements the CalMHSA Clinical Documentation Guides. Where there are inconsistencies between the two, for example related to scope of practice requirements, the ACBHD Supplemental Documentation Guide should be followed.

Please also note that section 4 of the [QA Manual](#) is now titled *Specialty Services* and includes documents related to specialized child/adolescent treatment services and programs.

Support

Providers are invited to join monthly QA Brown Bag meetings where this and other relevant information are discussed. Meeting details and links can be found on the [QA Training page](#).

For questions, please contact QATA@acgov.org.