



ALCOHOL, DRUG & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
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AB109 Procedures for BHCS Contracted Providers of Level One Services

Dear Alameda County Level One Provider:

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Agency is implementing procedures for clients age 18 and over who need mental health and/or substance use treatment services and are under the supervision of County Probation or Jail through Assembly Bill 109 (AB109). AB109 is part of a large-scale prison reform initiative that involves the realignment of some state correction funds and responsibilities to the counties. Offenders who are included were incarcerated most recently for a felony charge that was deemed not serious, not violent and not a sex offense (triple-non). They were either:

1. released from state prison under Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) through the County Probation Department rather than undergoing parole;
2. sentenced to County Jail rather than State Prison, and subsequently released under Mandatory Supervision through the County Probation Department (rather than undergoing parole);
3. in violation of their parole for an offense that was deemed a triple-non, and later released under PRCS through the County Probation Department.

We are sending this letter in case you receive referrals of AB109 clients. Following is a description of referral procedures, documentation requirements, types of payment coverage, and linkages to other services.

Referral procedures

1. Offenders released from prison or jail to supervision by County Probation under AB109 guidelines must report to Probation within 48 hours of their release and receive a risk assessment that includes the addressing of mental health and substance use disorder problems.
2. If the offender and/or the Probation Officer decide there may be need for treatment, then Probation sends a referral to BHCS ACCESS for a telephone screening.
3. If the ACCESS staff member conducting the screening determines the possible need for Level One mental health treatment, he or she will make a referral to the Crisis Response Program (CRP) per usual procedures.
4. CRP will in turn conduct an assessment and, if deciding the client needs Level One treatment, refer to a Service Team or FSP. The referral will be communicated to the client, the program provider, and the Probation Officer.
5. When contacted by the prospective client for an intake, the program provider should communicate clearly to the client an appointment date and time. The prospective client is responsible to report this back to his or her Probation Officer.
6. Referrals are based upon current information from screenings by Probation, ACCESS and CRP. The prospective client is expected to initiate service with you within the first few days of the referral letter.

Documentation

1. Our referral to you is based upon an initial request from Probation. We ask that you contact the Probation Officer for the client after the first visit to inform them that you have begun services with their client. Please do this by completing the relevant few sections of the brief "AB109 Behavioral Health Service Client



Progress Report” form provided to you by Fax from CRP, and then fax it to Probation. To do so, you will also need to obtain a signed release of information from the client.

2. Make sufficient blank copies of the “AB109 Behavioral Health Service Client Progress Report” form to be able to fax a monthly progress report of the client’s progress in treatment to Probation. If you need more forms, contact ACCESS to fax them to you.
3. The chart documentation standards for AB109 clients are the same as for Medi-Cal consumers. All documentation must meet medical and service necessity for the provided services.

Payment coverage for services

1. Types of coverage that apply:
 - **HealthPAC:** Most AB109 clients are likely to be eligible for physical and mental health coverage through HealthPAC, the county’s low income health plan. If they are not already enrolled in HealthPAC and are at or below 133% of federal poverty level, please work with the client and their Probation Officer to expedite their enrollment as soon as possible. The county Health Care Services Agency has set up an easy process for AB109 clients to become quickly enrolled and connected to a primary health care home. Follow standard claiming procedures for HealthPAC.
 - **MediCal:** Some AB109 clients will be eligible for MediCal coverage. In such cases, if they are not already enrolled please help to facilitate their participation in enrollment procedures. Follow standard claiming procedures for MediCal.
 - **Private Insurance:** There may be a few AB109 clients who have private insurance. In such cases, follow the standard procedures for documenting and claiming outlined by those insurers.
2. Reimbursement for reports
 - Probation will request a progress report from providers on the attached form. For each client you will submit a separate report for each month of service and upon discharge. BHCS will reimburse at the rate of \$20 per report. A new procedure code (792) has been created for this purpose and it will appear on your 854 report. Be sure to include this on your invoice on the line “Other”.

Linkages to other services

1. Physical health care:
 - Because most AB109 clients are eligible for HealthPAC, they can receive assignment to a primary care home and receive care for illnesses there before they worsen. They can also receive referrals there for specialty medical services they might need. Please refer clients who are enrolled in HealthPAC to their primary care home for any emerging physical problem.
2. Substance use treatment:
 - Most AB109 clients will not have any coverage for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services. However, several SUD treatment providers have general types of federal and county funding that can accommodate them. Please refer AB109 clients with SUD treatment needs to ACCESS for an appropriate referral.

If you have questions regarding the AB 109 program, please contact Dave Abramson at (510) 567-8100. For invoicing/contract question please contact your Fiscal Contract Manager in the Network Office.

Sincerely,



Fiona Branagh
Director, Network Office