



ALCOHOL, DRUG & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
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## AB109 Procedures for BHCS Contracted Providers of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services

Dear Alameda County Substance Use Disorder Treatment Provider:

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Agency is implementing procedures for clients of 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 need for treatment, he or she will make a referral using American Society of Addiction Medicine Patient Placement Criteria-2 (ASAM PPC-2) and other criteria such as geographic location and availability of openings. The referral will be communicated to the client, the provider, and the Probation Officer.
4. When contacted by the prospective client for an intake, the 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. If the wait time for intake and/or treatment is too long to meet the prospective client's needs, he or she and/or the Probation Officer may decide to recontact ACCESS for referral to a different treatment provider.
5. Referrals are based upon current information from screenings by both Probation and ACCESS. The prospective client is expected to initiate service with you within a 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 ACCESS, 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

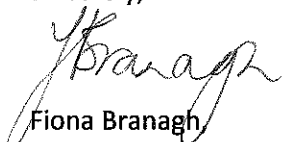
1. Types of coverage that apply:
  - **SAPT Block Grant or County General Fund Coverage:** Most AB109 clients are not likely to have any coverage for SUD treatment. Although many AB109 clients are eligible for HealthPAC, the county's low income health plan, this plan does not cover SUD treatment services unless a mental health diagnosis is primary. Providers with SAPT Block Grant and/or County General Fund treatment slots can use them as needed for AB109 clients.
  - **Drug MediCal Coverage:** Some AB109 clients will have Drug MediCal coverage. In such cases, those SUD programs certified as Drug MediCal providers should follow standard Drug Medi-Cal procedures for documenting and claiming. For those eligible for Drug MediCal but not yet enrolled, please help to encourage and facilitate their enrollment.
  - **Private Insurance Coverage:** 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 PSP131 report. Please contact your Fiscal Contract Manager for the appropriate invoice form covering all your programs.

#### Linkage to other services

1. Physical health problems:
  - 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.
  - If a client is not already enrolled in HealthPAC and is at or below 133% of 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.
2. Mental health problems:
  - HealthPAC also covers most types of mental health services including treatment of mild to moderate symptoms through their primary health care home. For those with mild to moderate symptoms with HealthPAC coverage, please refer them to their primary care home where a behavioral health or primary care professional will help them.
  - For those with more severe problems, irrespective of coverage please refer them to ACCESS who will conduct a screening and make an appropriate referral.

If you have questions regarding the AB109 program please contact Dave Abramson at (510) 567-8100. For invoicing/contract questions please contact your Fiscal Contract Manager in the Network Office.

Sincerely,



Fiona Branagh  
Director, Network Office