


SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Behavioral Health Services

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Subject: Psychiatric Service Coordination with Primary Care Physicians	Policy Number: 2533
Date Effective: 12/29/2017	Pages: 2
Replaces: 9/2/2005	Responsible for Updating: Chief of Psychiatry
Approval:  _____ Behavioral Health Director	<u>1-3-18</u> _____ Date

POLICY:

In order to deliver quality and comprehensive care to clients, psychiatric services shall be coordinated with primary care services.

PURPOSE:

To describe the coordination of physical and mental healthcare between primary care and psychiatric providers.

DEFINITIONS:

Safety Net Clinic- Health Clinic that provides services to Medi-Cal Managed Care beneficiaries.

Mental Health Plan (MHP) - The designation for counties that operate the carve out of Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services through their programs and those of contracted providers. In this document, MHP refers to Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Services.

Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) - Refers to County Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services that meet criteria in CCR, Title 9, Chapter 11, Sections 1830.205; 1830.210 and 1810.345. These criteria include a covered diagnosis and a functional impairment that is moderate to severe and not amenable to treatment by a physical healthcare provider.

Managed Care Plan (MCP) - Contractually responsible entity for the arrangement and payment of all medically necessary Medi-Cal covered physical health care services and outpatient services for members with mild to moderate mental, emotional or behavioral impairment. There is only one managed care plan in Santa Cruz County.

Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH) - Behavioral Health Service embedded in a primary care clinic to provide behavioral health care to clients with mental health and substance use disorders who do not meet medical necessity criteria for specialty mental health or who have excluded diagnoses.

Managed Behavioral Health Organization (MBHO) – Agency that the MCP has contracted with to develop a provider network, process and pay claims, conduct prior authorization for select mental health services, provide care coordination to support linking members with needed mental health resources, conduct member screening to determine appropriate referrals for mental health services, and provide consultation and support to PCPs in managing mental health needs within their scope of practice including medication management.

Primary Care Provider- May be an MD, DO, NP, or PA who provides primary care to an individual. In Santa Cruz County all primary care providers who provide services to Medi-Cal Managed care beneficiaries are considered providers of the County's sole Managed Care Plan.

PROCEDURES:

1. Coordination Guidelines

- a) For beneficiaries with psychiatric symptoms that do not meet medical necessity criteria for specialty mental health services, the primary care setting is appropriate for treatment of these symptoms.
 - b) Psychiatric consultation is available to advise and assist primary care providers with mental health treatment via:
 - i) Primary care providers who work at County Clinics may consult with embedded psychiatric providers (Integrated Behavioral Health)
 - ii) Primary care providers at non-County clinics may consult with MBHO psychiatric consultation services.
 - iii) Independent primary care providers may consult with the MBHO psychiatric consultation services.
 - c) For beneficiaries with psychiatric symptoms that meet medical necessity criteria for specialty mental health services, the full range of those mental health services may be available. Primary Care providers who encounter individuals who appear to be significantly impaired by a mental illness, should refer these beneficiaries to the County Access Team for screening and assessment.
 - d) If the primary care provider is not sure whether a beneficiary meets medical necessity criteria they may refer the individual to either the MBHO or Access Team for screening. MBHO/Access can then either accept the beneficiary or refer them to the appropriate level of care. If on-site Integrated Behavioral Health care is available, primary care providers are encouraged to consult with these services first.
 - e) Beneficiaries who present to mental health providers with medical problems will be referred to primary care physicians who will evaluate medical treatment needs and/or provide consultation.
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PRIOR VERSIONS: 9/2/2005

REFERENCES: