



Quality Assurance Bulletin

April 17, 2017 **No. 17-11**

Program Support Bureau

County of Los Angeles - Department of Mental Health

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Medi-Cal Lockouts for Crisis Stabilization & MHSA Funding

This Bulletin is to notify providers regarding the use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding for Crisis Stabilization services when a Medi-Cal lockout exists. A Medi-Cal lockout is a situation in which Medi-Cal reimbursement is not available. Crisis Stabilization is “an unplanned, expedited service lasting less than 24 hours, to or on behalf of a client to address an urgent condition requiring immediate attention that cannot be adequately or safely addressed in a community setting” (State Plan Amendment). The maximum number of hours claimable to Medi-Cal for Crisis Stabilization in a 24-hour period is 20 hours. When a client receives Crisis Stabilization services for more than 20 hours, there has traditionally been no funding source available to reimburse for the additional service time (i.e., the balance of up to 3 hours and 59 minutes of service time).

A State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Information Notice was issued on July 20, 2016 which states that “counties may use MHSA funds to provide crisis stabilization services to adults and older adults regardless of their voluntary or involuntary legal status” ([DHCS Info Notice 16-034](#)).

Effective as of the date of this Bulletin, DMH Directly-Operated and Contracted providers that provide Crisis Stabilization services may submit full cost MHSA funding claims for time spent in excess of 20 hours providing services to clients that qualify for MHSA funding, up to a maximum allowable claim of 4 hours, by submitting a subsequent claim for the same date of service. Providers may retroactively claim for dates of services on or after July 20, 2016 provided there is MHSA funding available within their contract.

Instructions for IS Providers:

- Contracted providers should submit a second service for the remainder of the duration utilizing the existing Crisis Stabilization procedure code and **uncheck** the Medi-Cal box.

Instructions for IBHIS Providers:

- Contracted providers should submit a second service for the remainder of the duration utilizing the existing Crisis Stabilization procedure code with an HX modifier within the non Medi-Cal funding source. (Refer to the updated IBHIS Addendum Guide to Procedure Codes)
- Directly-Operated providers should submit a second service for the remainder of the duration utilizing the Non-Billable to Medi-Cal Crisis Stabilization (UCC) (00006) Procedure Code.

If Directly-Operated or Contracted providers have any questions regarding this Bulletin, please contact your Service Area QA Liaison.

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