



Quality Assurance Bulletin

Office of Performance Data

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health

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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST INTERN & PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR INTERN TITLE CHANGE

Per the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), the titles for marriage and family therapist (MFT) interns and professional clinical counselor (PCC) interns will change effective January 1, 2018. These changes are due to the concern that the term “intern” may not be an accurate representation of a registered MFT/PCC’s post-master’s degree status.

Under SB 1478, Chapter 489, Statutes of 2016, a registered MFT/PCC must use the following titles (respectively):

- Associate Marriage and Family Therapist or Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist
- Associate Professional Clinical Counselor or Registered Associate Professional Clinical Counselor

The BBS has not communicated a preference between the above titles (i.e. whether “registered” is included or excluded from the title). For directly-operated, LACDMH has opted to go with “Associate Marriage and Family Therapist” within IBHIS.

NOTE: At this time, the BBS is identifying permitted abbreviations for the above titles. Please refer to the BBS web site for further instructions regarding permitted abbreviations.

For Directly-Operated providers using IBHIS for clinical documentation, the Quality Assurance Division will be updating the electronic signature credentials for all registered MFTs who currently have “MFT Intern” selected in Practitioner Enrollment to “Associate Marriage and Family Therapist”.

The Organizational Provider’s Manual has been updated on page 8 (removed MFT Intern abbreviation) and page 13 (removed MFT Intern abbreviation example) to be consistent with this change.

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

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