

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Quality Assurance Unit – Policy and Technical Development Team**

COVID-19 Interim Practice:

WIC 5150/5585 Evaluations May Be Performed via Telehealth

The State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has confirmed that WIC 5150/5585 evaluations may be performed via telehealth. This would include discontinuing involuntary detentions when clinically appropriate. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) has ensured that during the COVID19 crisis, all procedure codes that may be claimed in the process of conducting a 5150/5585 (such as crisis intervention) are available for use. The LPS form [MH 302](#) is currently available online. Providers may make this form PDF-fillable if they choose.

At this time, DHCS has stated that the WIC 5151 evaluation may not be conducted via telehealth. LACDMH has reached out to DHCS to discuss this and will keep providers updated.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has not put out any guidance regarding the process for conducting 5150/5585 via telehealth. It is up to providers to determine a process that works for them. The following items may be considered when developing a process:

- Contacting hospital administrative staff to determine if they will accept the 5150/5585 form via HIPAA compliant encrypted email or fax.
- Having staff or someone who is familiar with the client be present, while the LPS designated staff evaluate the client via a videoconferencing platform.
- Processing signature electronically through acceptable HIPAA compliant secure electronic signature platform. For the further guidance of the digital signature, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19](#).