



Quality Assurance Bulletin

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Program Support Bureau

County of Los Angeles - Department of Mental Health
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LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELORS (LPCCs)

Effective July 1, 2012, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) included Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs) as a recognized discipline under the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services program by adding LPCCs to the California State Plan Amendment (SPA). This gave the Mental Health Plan (MHP) the authority to hire and/or contract with LPCCs to provide Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services at the MHP's discretion.

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LAC-DMH), as of the date of the Bulletin, will recognize LPCCs as an eligible discipline in the LAC-DMH System-of-Care. LPCCs are now eligible to act as an Authorized Mental Health Discipline (AMHD), including completing assessments and signing off on treatment plans (CCCP). In addition, LPCCs are eligible to provide, and be reimbursed for, psychotherapy as well as rehabilitation and targeted case management services. Note: Any assessment or psychotherapy services provided by an LPCC prior to June 6, 2013 will not be reimbursed by LAC-DMH.

LAC-DMH has opted not to include LPCCs within the Directly-Operated system at this time given current staffing patterns. Contractors may choose to hire LPCCs but should be thoroughly familiar with certain scope of practice restrictions and/or supplemental training requirements pertaining to the LPCC discipline (see the "Statutes and Regulations Relating to the Practice of: Professional Clinical Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Educational Psychology, Clinical Social Work" issued by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences <http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/lawsregs.pdf>).

The QA Division is in the process of updating the Guide to Procedure Codes for Claiming Mental Health Services to reflect this change. The updated Guide should be available by July 1, 2013.

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

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