



Quality Assurance Bulletin

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Program Support Bureau

County of Los Angeles - Department of Mental Health

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MULTIPLE PRACTITIONERS PROVIDING A SINGLE SERVICE

The State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is currently in discussion with counties regarding the requirements for documenting, signing and claiming for services when a single service is rendered to one or more clients (i.e. either as an individual or group service) by multiple practitioners. While DHCS has not yet issued a final ruling on this issue, the Quality Assurance Division believes the eventual decision will include requiring the signature (or electronic equivalent) of each practitioner providing a single service and for whom time will be included on the claim.

Effective as of the date of this Bulletin, when more than one practitioner participates in a single service to one or more clients and one progress note is submitted for the service, the signature of each practitioner participating in the service must be included on the progress note. For Directly-Operated programs utilizing the Integrated Behavioral Health Information System (IBHIS), all progress notes including one or more co-practitioners must be routed to the co-practitioner(s) for approval (signature).

The Organizational Provider's Manual has been updated to reflect this requirement (see pages 11 and 25). As soon as a final ruling has been issued by DHCS, a Quality Assurance Bulletin will be issued detailing any other changes to current policy, if applicable, regarding multiple practitioners providing a single service.

The updated Organizational Provider's Manual is located at: http://file.lacounty.gov/dmh/cms1_159846.pdf. If Contract or Directly-Operated agencies have any questions regarding this Bulletin, please contact your Service Area QA Liaison.

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