

# Provider BULLETIN



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FFS II Medi-Cal Providers

A Publication of the Local Mental Health Plan (LMHP) of the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

The purpose of this Provider Alert is to remind Fee-For-Service (FFS) Individual and Group Providers about the County's contract and credentialing requirements for psychiatrists and the roles of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician Assistants (PA) in rendering Specialty Mental Health Services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries in an Inpatient Acute Psychiatric Hospital and Outpatient Settings.

It is the policy of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, functioning as the Local Mental Health Plan (LMHP), that licensed mental health professionals whose scope of practice permits the practice of psychotherapy independently, who meet the credentialing standards and contracting requirements established by the LMHP and who have a signed and executed contract, will be approved to provide Specialty Mental Health Services to Los Angeles County Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The Psychiatrists' Medi-Cal Professional Contract with the LMHP allow them to provide psychiatric services in an inpatient acute psychiatric hospital setting.

*The California Code of Regulations, (CCR), Title 9, Division 1, Chapter 11, Section 1810.237 reads, "Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital Professional Services" mean specialty mental health services provided to a beneficiary by a licensed mental health professional with hospital admitting privileges while the beneficiary is in a hospital receiving psychiatric inpatient hospital services." Further, CCR, Title 9, Chapter 11, Section 1810.240 describes "Psychiatric Services as services provided by licensed physicians, within their scope of practice, who have contracted with the MHP to provide specialty mental health services."*

Therefore, the Nurse Practitioner credentialed with the LMHP as an "Allowable Discipline" is permitted to only render services in Nursing Homes, Private Outpatient Offices and Skilled Nursing Facilities as an independent practitioner and not functioning under the direction of a credentialed and contracted physician. An Inpatient Acute Psychiatric Hospital is excluded as a Place of Service (POS). Acute inpatient psychiatric evaluations and daily progress reports conducted and written by Nurse Practitioners or Physician Assistants and co-signed by credentialed physicians are not acceptable. Physician Assistants are not approved as providers or contractors by the LMHP. Finally, Psychiatrists are being reminded about the signed and dated certification found on the *DMH Medi-Cal Professional Services Contract's Certification on Medi-Cal Claims, Exhibit O*, that the provider "agrees and shall certify under penalty of perjury that all claims for services provided to County Mental Health clients have been provided to the clients by this network provider".

Thank you for the professional mental health services you provide to the beneficiaries of Los Angeles County. Any non-compliance to the signed Contract, county credentialing and documentation requirements maybe a reason for recoupment of paid claims during chart reviews.

If you have any questions regarding this Provider Bulletin, please contact DMH Intensive Care Division at (213) 739-7300.

**References:**

*42 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart D, section 468.160*

*CCR Title 9, Chapter 11, Section 1810. 240; 1810.237.1*

*Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Medi-Cal Professional Services Contract, Exhibit O  
Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services Provider Manual*