



Quality Assurance Bulletin

Quality Assurance Unit

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health

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GUIDE TO PROCEDURE CODES UPDATES

The Guide to Procedure Codes for Specialty Mental Health Services (“the Guide”) has been updated to reflect new guidance from the FY24-25 and FY25-26 Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Specialty Mental Health Services Billing Manual. Below is a summary of updates to the Guide effective January 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified below.

DIRECT CARE:

- ✓ Deleted the section pertaining to writing a single note for multiple encounters provided on the same day. Documentation requirements can be found in the Organizational Provider’s Manual.

DUPLICATE SERVICES:

- ✓ Added clarification on the DHCS rule to submit one claim for multiple encounters to prevent duplicate denials.

Note: The rule does not apply to service codes exempt from the duplicate check.

DISCIPLINE/TAXONOMY:

- ✓ Added Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor (AOD), certified or registered by a National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCAA), as an available discipline with the following allowable taxonomy descriptions:
 - 101YA0400X, Addiction (Substance Use Disorder)
 - 171M00000X, Case Manager/Care Coordinator
 - 225800000X, Recreational Therapist
 - 226000000X, Recreational Therapist Assistant

Note: For additional information regarding certification/registration, please refer to: [DHCS Counselor Certification Organizations](#)

PROCEDURE CODES:

- ✓ Added AOD counselor to the following service codes:

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| • H2011, Crisis Intervention Service, per 15 Minutes | • H0032, Mental Health Service Plan Developed by Non-Physician, 15 Minutes |
| • H2011:HW, Mobile Crisis Services, per Encounter | • H2021, Coordination of Care |
| • T1017, Targeted Case Management, Each 15 Minutes | • S9986:HE:HX- PEI-Outcome Measurement |
| • H2017, Psychosocial Rehabilitation, per 15 Minutes | • 99199:HX, Travel Time |
| • H2017:HQ, Group Rehabilitation, per 15 Minutes | • 200, Mental Health Promotion |
| • H2000, Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Evaluation, 15 Minutes | • 231, Community Client Services |
| • H2000:HK, Child and Family Team (CFT), Each 15 Minutes | |

- ✓ Removed H2017 as the replacement code for the telephone Evaluation and Management (E&M) service codes 99441, 99442, and 99443.

- ✓ Added 93 (telephone) as the Allowable Method of Delivery to the following E&M service codes:

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|---|--|
| • 99202, Office or Other Outpatient Visit of a New Patient, 15-29 Minutes | • 99212, Office or Other Outpatient Visit of an Established Patient, 10-19 Minutes |
| • 99203, Office or Other Outpatient Visit of a New Patient, 30-44 Minutes | • 99213, Office or Other Outpatient Visit of an Established Patient, 20-29 Minutes |
| • 99204, Office or Other Outpatient Visit of a New Patient, 45-59 Minutes | • 99214, Office or Other Outpatient Visit of an Established Patient, 30-39 Minutes |
| • 99205, Office or Other Outpatient Visit of a New Patient, 60-74 Minutes | • 99215, Office or Other Outpatient Visit of an Established Patient, 40-54 Minutes |

If directly-operated or contracted providers have any questions related to this Bulletin, please contact the QA Unit at QualityAssurance@dmh.lacounty.gov.

cc: DMH Executive Management
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DMH QA Liaisons
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