

QR Tips

Behavioral Health Services
Authority and Quality Improvement Services
AOABH / CYPBH Support Teams

Scope of Practice

- We want to remind all BHS County and County Contracted clinicians that the provision of any service outside their scope of practice is a reason for recoupment. Clinicians are responsible for the quality of services they provide, and should have a minimum degree of competence in the provision of such services.
- Health Care Agency's Coding Manual and Clinician Handbook with Documentation Guidelines, version 10, defines scope of practice as "the range of activities and services licensed professionals may do in their licensed practice. It is expected that within their scope of practice, professionals will provide those services for which they have been adequately trained".
- Examples of practicing outside their respective scope of practice include:
 - A clinical psychologist making recommendations to the consumer about which psychotropic medications the consumer should take
 - A social worker administering psychological testing
 - A mental health rehabilitation specialist/mental health specialist (MHS)/mental health worker (MHW) providing psychotherapy
 - A mental health rehabilitation specialist/MHS/MHW diagnosing according to DSM-5
- Please consult with your supervisor or program director regarding those services that can be provided, but require a co-signature from a licensed clinician. However, please be aware that a co-signature does not enable anyone to provide services beyond their training and scope of practice.

TRAININGS & MEETINGS

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AOABH

New Provider Training
(Documentation & Care Plan)

The online version of this training is now available on AQIS AOABH Support Team website!

Here is the link:

[AOABH New Provider Training](#)

AOABH Core Trainers Meetings

County Core Trainers Meeting

Cancelled

Contract Core Trainers Meeting

Cancelled

CYPBH Trainings

**Please see CYPBH Support Team website for online trainings.*

HELPFUL LINKS

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[AQIS AOABH Support Team](#)

[AQIS CYPBH Support Team](#)

[BHS Electronic Health Record](#)

[Medi-Cal Certification](#)

REMINDERS

Service Chiefs and Supervisors, the Change of Provider/2nd Opinion logs and Med Monitoring packets are due on July 10th, 2019.

Service Chiefs and Supervisors, the updates for the Provider Directory are due on the 3rd Monday of each month. An email reminder will also be sent shortly.

Service Chiefs and Supervisors, please document the review of QRTips in staff meetings. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AOABH ONLY:

New Provider Training (Documentation & Care Plan) is now available online! Please note that it is a *two-part training* and both certificates of completion must be submitted to AQIS to receive credit for the training in full. The entire training should take approximately 3 hours to complete in one sitting. Please visit the AQIS AOABH Support Team website or click the following link to access the training:

[AOABH New Provider Training](#)

Professional Licensing Waivers (PLW)

A professional licensing waiver is issued by the **California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)** following an application completed by one of the following three county programs: **Authority and Quality Improvement Services (AQIS)**, **County of Orange Human Resources (HR)** or **County of Orange Volunteer Services**. It allows pre and post-doctoral psychologists to **bill Medi-Cal** during the time they are acquiring supervised professional experience to obtain their license. The waivers are issued **only once** and **run continuously for 5 years** irrespective of the individual's employment or placement status. The State maintains a database of issued waivers. If an individual moves to another agency or placement within the Mental Health Plan (MHP) the same waiver follows that individual. However, if an individual moves to another agency in another MHP, an application for a new waiver must be submitted by the second MHP prior to allowing the individual to begin work. **Waivers are not transferable between MHPs.**

Psychologist candidates meet the waiver requirements when they have **accumulated 48 semester units (72 quarter units) of graduate coursework**. Contract agencies should make note of when their student interns have reached the graduate coursework threshold and promptly request their contract monitors to notify AQIS to obtain the waiver. County programs should consult HR or County of Orange Volunteer Services regarding waivers. A pre-licensed psychology student meeting the accumulated graduate coursework requirement is required to work with their program/AQIS to ensure appropriate billing until such time a waiver is issued by the state.

Psychologists, clinical social workers (LCSW), marriage and family therapists (LMFT), and professional clinical counselors (LPCC) who were **previously licensed in other states** are granted waivers for **only 3 years** as it is expected that they will obtain their California license within that time frame.

For LCSW, LMFT, and LPCC candidates, the Board of Behavior Sciences (BBS) associate registration serves as the waiver. As long as they have a valid associate registration number and are under the required clinical supervision, they can bill Medi-Cal.

It is the **responsibility of County and Contract programs in the MHP** to determine whether pre-licensed employed staff and student interns meet professional licensing waiver (PLW) requirements. Agencies should be cognizant of the waiver expiration date and inform their staff when the waiver will expire. Staff should also be aware of their waiver expiration date and strive to obtain their professional license prior to the expiration of the waiver to avoid any impact on their employment status (staff with expired waivers are not able to be employed at a Medi-Cal billing agency).

Contract agencies must consult their contract monitors or AQIS if they have any questions about whether or not a staff needs a waiver. Also, Contract agencies must immediately report name changes to their contract monitors to inform AQIS so DHCS can be notified of the name change. Again, County staff should consult with HR or County of Orange Volunteer Services regarding waivers.

References:

DMH Letter No.: 10-03:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/MHArchiveLtrs/MH-Ltr10-03.pdf>

The DHCS's website regarding profession licensing waivers (PLW):

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Pages/MHPLW.aspx>.

AQIS SUPPORT TEAMS

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AOABH

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