



# STANISLAUS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES: QUALITY SERVICES

## QS INFORMATION NOTICE

**MARCH 2025**

**PURPOSE:** To inform our Stanislaus County staff, contractors, and general community of changes in programs, policies, or procedures at the local, State and Federal levels. QS Information Notices will be sent out monthly and posted on the Stanislaus County website.



### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### [California State Plan Amendment \(SPA\) 24-0042](#)

This SPA expands the continuum of community-based services and evidence-based practices available through Medi-Cal specialty behavioral health delivery systems by adding coverage for assertive community treatment (ACT), clubhouse services, and coordinated specialty care for first episode psychosis (CSC) and making other clarifications under the rehabilitative mental health services benefit. The California Medicaid SPA 24-0042 was approved on December 19, 2024, with an effective date of January 1, 2025.

#### [Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\) Behavioral Health Informational Notice \(BHIN\) Assignments](#)

As part of the DHCS Contract with BHRS, it is the responsibility of the department to ensure compliance with all posted BHINs on the DHCS website. To meet this requirement, Quality Services has implemented a new process to review posted BHINs and identify the responsible party(s) that must submit evidence of implementation of an assigned BHIN. The identified party(s) will receive an assignment notification email from [QSEmail@stanbhrs.org](mailto:QSEmail@stanbhrs.org) and from symplr with a link that will direct you to the assignment. It is through SYMPLR that all evidence and necessary documentation will need to be uploaded by the due date to demonstrate compliance with the BHIN. Quality Services will provide ongoing follow-up and technical assistance throughout the process to aid in timely and successful implementation. If evidence of implementation is not received, the Compliance Division will begin Compliance Monitoring and issue a Non-Compliance CAP/letter.

#### [Onsite Visit Checklist and Plan of Improvement for Onsite Visits initiated by Quality Services](#)

Quality Services has implemented a new process for all Onsite Visits. For all Onsite Visits performed by Quality Services, (includes New Certifications, Recertifications, and/or Unannounced Semi-Annual Onsite Visits) the Onsite Visit Checklist and Plan of Improvement (POI) will now be assigned through symplr. The identified party(s) will receive an email from [QSEmail@stanbhrs.org](mailto:QSEmail@stanbhrs.org) as well as an email from symplr with a link that will direct you to the POI via symplr. It is through symplr that the POI will need to be submitted by the identified due date. Instructions on creating symplr account will be sent out to responsible party(s) as well as instructions on how to review and fill out the POI. The POI must be completed within 10 days of being assigned.



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### SMARTCARE UPDATES

#### **SmartCare Procedure Service Code Guides for SMHS & DMC-ODS**

The SmartCare Procedure Service Code guides have been updated. The place of service, Prison/Correctional Facility, has been added to various outpatient procedure codes and removed from the following codes: *Physician-to-Physician Consult* for both DMC-ODS and SMHS. In addition, various clinical trainee provider types (i.e. Psychologist Clinical Trainee, Registered Nurse Clinical Trainee, Nurse Practitioner, & Pharmacist Clinical Trainee) have been either added or removed from various procedure codes. Please carefully review the updated guides to ensure all relevant procedures and billing practices are aligned with these changes. Procedure Code Guides can be found on the intranet and extranet on the training tab, under SmartCare EHR

**A reminder to ALL staff (county & contractor) to REFRAIN from using any procedure code that may be available in SmartCare but is NOT on the SMHS or DMC-ODS Procedure Code guides.**

### UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT (UM) UPDATES

#### **Updated Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Forms**

Health Plan of San Joaquin (HPSJ) has updated their ECM Referral Forms for both the Child/Youth and Adult. UM is in the process of updating the ECM process as well as the forms on the UM tab on the intranet/extranet. Refer to the email sent on January 31, 2025, from BHRS UM for full details.

Healthnet is now utilizing separate versions of the ECM Referral Forms for their Adults and Children/Youth. The ECM process and the forms on the UM tab on the intranet/extranet will be updated to reflect this change. Refer to the email sent on February 27, 2025, from BHRS UM.

### MEDICAL RECORDS (MR) UPDATES

#### **Coordinated Care Consents**

Coordinated Care Consents must have the BHRS paper form, as well as the SmartCare form, to be considered valid. The hard copy signature form is to be sent to Medical Records for scanning within 24 hours of signature, as stated in the practice guideline. Coordinated Care Consents entered in SmartCare without an associated scanned hard copy signature is subject to revocation, as it is not in compliance. The practice guideline for this process is available on the intranet and extranet. Refer to the email sent on February 19, 2025, from BHRS Medical Records for full details.

**If you have any questions related to QS Information Notices, contact Quality Services by:  
Email: [QSEmail@stanbhhs.org](mailto:QSEmail@stanbhhs.org), PHONE: (209) 525-6043, or FAX: (209) 558-4324**