



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

DATE: December 3, 2013

MHSD INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 13-22

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR  
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS  
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY INFORMATION CONCERNING ISSUANCE OF THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS BY THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

REFERENCE: TITLE 9, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTIONS 1820.205, 1830.205 AND 1830.210. TITLE 22, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTIONS 51341.1(b)(10) AND (b)(21). DRUG MEDICAL PROGRAM CERTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CLINICS (7/2004) SECTION III.J.1

EXPIRES: Retain until superseded

On May 20, 2013, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) issued the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM V).

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is issuing this Information Notice to apprise counties and mental health and substance use disorder service providers of the status of DHCS's analysis of the impact of the new DSM V and any implications for the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) waiver or Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) programs. This Information Notice is the first collaboration between DHCS's Mental Health Services Division (MHSD) and Substance Use Disorder Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Division concerning DSM V. Any needs to accommodate DSM V could include amending the SMHS waiver, California statutes or regulations (e.g., State laws), contracts between DHCS and the county Medi-Cal mental health plans (MHPs) or DMC programs, and/or issuing further guidance concerning DSM V through future Information Notices or All County Letters.

Since March 2013, DHCS has conducted regular meetings on DSM V. DHCS has reached out and received information from agencies, advocacy groups, stakeholders and partners including, but not limited to, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, the National Association of State Alcohol

and Drug Abuse Directors, the California Mental Health Directors Association, the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California, the American Psychiatric Association (APA), and Mercer, Inc., concerning what impact DSM V may have on claiming for Medi-Cal SMHS and DMC services.

Based on information DHCS has received to date, no immediate changes in claiming requirements for Medi-Cal SMHS and DMC services will result from DSM V. Under CMS guidelines, the DSM V is not a federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) adopted code set and may not be used in HIPAA standard transactions. As a result, all current SMHS and DMC claims submitted to DHCS must include a valid SMHS and DMC ninth edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) diagnosis code, which should now be based on the assigned DSM IV criteria, supported by information in client files.

DHCS continues to analyze the changes to diagnoses and diagnostic criteria suggested by DSM V to determine how to make the best use of diagnosis codes based on DSM V criteria within the SMHS and DMC programs. The SMHS and DMC programs are currently governed by regulations and, for Medi-Cal SMHS services, by a federal waiver that defines the programs' scope in terms of DSM IV diagnoses.

DHCS will work with county MHPs and DMC contractors concerning any regulatory, statutory, contract, or SMHS waiver changes that may be needed to implement DSM V at such time as any specific federal guidance is received or any State decisions are needed concerning using DSM V as a diagnostic tool within the SMHS and DMC programs. DHCS will apprise county MHPs and DMC contractors in advance regarding any such decisions or changes.

At this time, no changes are needed in county MHPs or DMC contractors claiming, documentation, Medi-Cal business or clinical processes. Until DHCS issues future guidance, county MHPs and DMC contractors should continue their current practices with regard to providing and documenting SMHS and DMC services and reporting diagnoses codes in claims.

As DHCS continues to analyze and determine the impact of DSM V, DHCS will work with the county MHPs and DMC contractors and their stakeholders concerning any need to implement changes in the SMHS waiver and DMC programs, State law, or contracts including issuing further guidance.

Questions regarding the content of this information notice may be directed to the DHCS Mental Health Services Division County Support Unit liaison for your county. A current list of county assignments can be found at:

[http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/County\\_Assignments100413A.pdf](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/County_Assignments100413A.pdf).

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Karen Baylor, Ph.D., LMFT, Deputy Director  
Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services