



JENNIFER KENT  
DIRECTOR

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

DATE: October 16, 2017

MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 17-055

TO: COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS  
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES  
COALITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSOCIATIONS  
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM EXECUTIVES, INC.  
CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES  
CALIFORNIA OPIOID MAINTENANCE PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF THE LOCKOUT FOR INTENSIVE CARE COORDINATION AND INTENSIVE HOME BASED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN GROUP HOMES OR SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS

REFERENCES: [MHSD INFORMATION NOTICE 13-10](#)  
[MHSD INFORMATION NOTICE 13-11](#)  
[MHSD INFORMATION NOTICE 13-19](#)  
[MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE 14-010](#)  
[MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE 14-36](#)  
[MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE 16-004](#)

The purpose of this Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services (MHSUDS) Information Notice is to inform Mental Health Plans (MHPs), Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) and Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS) may be provided to and reimbursed for children and youth who are placed in group homes or Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) and meet medical necessity criteria to receive these services.

Effective July 1, 2017, ICC may be provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries under the age of 21 who are placed in group homes or STRTPs, if medically necessary, with no limitation on the number of days that ICC may be provided or reimbursed. Prior to July 1, 2017,

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ICC was available to children and youth in group homes and STRTPs solely for the purposes of discharge planning and only for a limited number of days. These limitations are no longer in effect.

Effective July 1, 2017, IHBS may be provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries under the age of 21 who are placed in group homes or STRTPs, if medically necessary. Prior to July 1, 2017, IHBS could not be provided in a group home or STRTP. This limitation is no longer in effect.

The removal of these limitations is in no way intended to prolong a child or youth's length of stay in a group home or STRTP, but rather is intended to ensure that the full array of services are available to children when they are residing in group homes or STRTPs.

MHPs and providers must continue to include the place of service code on claims submitted for ICC and IHBS. MHPs are to use place of service code 14 on claims for ICC and IHBS when these services are provided in a group home or STRTP.

The third edition of the *Medi-Cal Manual for Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)*, *Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS)*, and *Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) for Medi-Cal Beneficiaries* will be updated consistent with this Information Notice.

Questions regarding this MHSUDS 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/Pages/CountySupportUnit.aspx>.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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