

SPECIALITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

DEFINITIONS

“Specialty Mental Health Provider” means a person or entity that is licensed, certified or otherwise recognized or authorized under the State law governing the healing arts to provide Specialty Mental Health Services. Specialty Mental Health Providers include but are not limited to: (i) clinics; (ii) hospital outpatient departments; (iii) certified residential treatment facilities; (iv) skilled nursing facilities; (v) psychiatric health facilities; (vi) hospitals; and (vii) licensed mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, marriage, family and child counselors, therapists and registered nurses authorized to provide Specialty Mental Health Services.

“Specialty Mental Health Services” means:

1. Rehabilitative services;
2. Psychiatric inpatient hospital services;
3. Psychiatrist services;
4. Psychologist services; and
5. Psychiatric nursing facility services.

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO MEMBERS

The PCP shall provide outpatient mental health services within the PCP’s scope of practice. Members requiring inpatient services should be referred to selected providers as directed by CenCal Health. CenCal Health is financially responsible for any Covered Services that are Medically Necessary while Members are receiving inpatient care including but not limited to laboratory and/or x-ray services.

For outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services, Members should be referred to selected providers as directed by CenCal Health for services outside the PCP’s scope of practice. The PCP shall coordinate Covered Services with Specialty Mental Health Providers. CenCal Health shall be responsible for payment of the outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services as well as certain drugs, certain emergency transportation costs, and laboratory tests associated with provision of mental health services.

Covered Services includes diagnosis and medical treatment for severe mental illnesses (SMI) of a person of any age. These services may be provided as both inpatient or outpatient services within the service area (i.e. Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties), in emergency situations, and under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. Additionally, serious emotional disturbances (SED), as well as those conditions that meet neither the criteria for SED or SMI are also covered. There are no visit limits for either Members with SMI or SED.

SANTA BARBARA HEALTH INITIATIVE (SBHI), SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH INITIATIVE (SLOHI), **PRENATAL PLUS 2**, and IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAMS

Behavioral Health Benefits for members of the SBHI and IHSS programs will continue to be administered by the Santa Barbara County Department of Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services (ADMHS). PCPs may request consultations for their patients by completing the ADMHS Consultation Request Form found in this section of the Provider Manual and faxing it to (805) 884-6888. Telephone consultations regarding medication and clinical issues are available by calling (805) 681-5113 and asking for the Quality Assurance/Utilization review psychiatrist. Members of the **PRENATAL PLUS 2** program requiring behavioral health services are typically referred to CenCal Health network providers, but may also be referred to ADMHS, whether or not they meet the criteria for SED. Behavioral Health benefits for members of the SLOHI program will be administered by the San Luis Obispo's County Department of Mental Health Services (MHS).

SPECIALTY MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS FOR DUAL ELIGIBLE MEMBERS

Because Behavioral Health Benefits have been carved out of the SBHI and SLOHI benefit structure, these benefits for members with dual eligibility (i.e with Medicare as the primary coverage and SBHI or SLOHI secondary) remain the responsibility of State Medi-Cal. Unfortunately, claims for these services may not crossover automatically as other Medicare/Medi-Cal crossover claims do. Instead, the EDS system automatically forwards the claims to SBHI/SLOHI, which may cause you to see a denial on your EOB as "not a benefit".

In order for these claims to be paid by EDS, submit a hardcopy claim to:

ATTN: Crossover Unit
EDS
P.O. Box 15700
Sacramento, CA 95852-1700

Additional information on hardcopy submission requirements of Medicare approved services can be located in the EDS manual on their website at www.medi-cal.ca.gov.

HEALTHY FAMILIES AND HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAMS

CenCal Health Healthy Families and Healthy Kids members may access care through our contracted provider, *PacifiCare Behavioral Health of California (PBHC)*. PCPs should refer their Healthy Families and Healthy Kids members to PBHC, who will in turn refer the member to the PBHC network of qualified behavioral health providers. The PBHC network includes most of the behavioral health specialists whom you have accessed through the County program, as well as many additional providers.

For most services, members must obtain a pre-authorization from PBHC prior to their first counseling visit. Members may obtain a referral by calling PBHC at (800) 999-9585.

A toll-free PBHC Physician Consultation Service is available to CenCal Health PCPs and their staff. This free service will provide assistance in screening, referring, and treating patients with behavioral health problems. Assistance will not be limited to patients within the PCP's practice whose benefits are administered by PBHC. This service may be accessed by calling (800) 383-2372 Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. A copy of a referral form which may be used can be found in this section of the Provider Manual.

Please note that SED-qualified children and youth will continue to be treated by the ADMHS Children's Clinic in Santa Barbara County, and by the MHS in San Luis Obispo County.