



SOLANO COUNTY QUALITY ASSURANCE

QA INFORMATION NOTICE 24-10

OCTOBER 1, 2024

PURPOSE: To inform our Solano County staff, contractors and general community of changes in programs, policies, or procedures at the local, State and Federal levels.
QA Information Notices (INs) are sent out monthly and posted on our [website](#).

GENERAL UPDATES

24-10 (A) CalAIM – CALIFORNIA ADVANCING & INNOVATING MEDI-CAL (COUNTY & CONTRACTOR)

24-10 (A.1) QA Office Hours: QA Office Hours in October will be Wednesday, October 9, from 9:00-9:30 AM. Please join us and submit questions ahead of time using this [Survey Monkey link](#) that is also in the Outlook invitation or bring your questions to the meeting.

24-10 (B) NEW AUTHORITY FOR RELEASE OF RECORDS AND CONSENT FOR TREATMENT FOR MEMBERS POLICY AND TRAINING INFORMATION (COUNTY & CONTRACTOR)

Thank you to everyone who attended the training provided by Quality Assurance and County Counsel on September 26, 2024, regarding the new policy titled *Authority for Release of Records and Consent for Treatment for Members*. This policy outlines who has authority to release information and medical records as well as the authority to consent for treatment for different populations. This policy also reflects recent regulatory updates for minors 12 years of age and older and updates to historical processes.

This was a required training for County and Contractor program staff who deal with consent and releasing of information. If not able to attend the training on Zoom, staff should watch the recorded version as soon as possible. The recording is posted on [Vimeo](#).

An email was sent from QualityAssurance@SolanoCounty.com on Friday, September 27, 2024, with details on next steps as well as all resources currently available to staff to support the implementation of the policy.

Solano County QA will be offering an optional meeting to County and Contractor staff on Thursday, October 3, 2024, from 1:30-3:00 pm to review the resources referenced in the original training and sent out in the above referenced email. Please attend if you have any questions about the resources or next steps for implementation.

Full official implementation of this policy and associated changes will occur this month. QA will send out an email to all programs to confirm the implementation date.

24-10 (C) MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE WAIVER (COUNTY & CONTRACTOR)

DHCS issued [BHIN 24-033](#) which provides information on the updated eligibility, application requirements, and the approval process for securing a Professional Licensure Waiver (PLW) to provide mental health services. This new BHIN replaces BHIN 20-069. PLWs are required for persons employed or under contract with Mental Health Plan (MHP), Local Mental Health Department (LMHD), or provider subcontracting with the MHP or LMHD to provide mental health services:

- Psychologists who are gaining the experience required for licensure, providing mental health services under the clinical supervision of an approved licensed psychologist.
- Psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, or professional clinical counselors who have been recruited for employment from outside California and have the minimum amount of professional experience to gain admission to the applicable California licensing examination for their profession.

PLWs granted by DHCS remain valid for five consecutive years from the first date of employment by, or contract with MHP, LMHD, or provider subcontracting with the MHP or LMHD.

24-10 (D) SOLANO COUNTY DOCUMENTATION MANUAL UPDATES (COUNTY & CONTRACTOR)

New sections of the Documentation Manual have been posted on [SharePoint](#) and will be posted on the [Network of Care](#). Please check out the new "Billing Codes and Scope of Practice" sections recently posted focused on Katie A. Subclass and Pathways to Well-Being, and a thorough document on lockout information. Additionally, instructions on utilizing the T1013 add-on code within Avatar progress notes is posted in the [Avatar Manual](#) on SharePoint.

AVATAR UPDATES

24-10 (E) DATA ENTRY OF ZIP CODE PLUS 4-DIGIT EXTENSION IN AVATAR (COUNTY & CONTRACTOR)

When entering a client's address in Avatar the 9-digit zip code is required for ALL cases, including homeless and when adding an invalid address. This is the 5-digit zip code plus the additional 4-digit extension entered in the *Avatar Admission (MH)* form and in the *Update Client Data* form. If this is not entered it will cause an error and services will not claim for that client.

Please review and update all current addresses that are missing the additional 4-digit zip code extension. Also make sure going forward that the full 9-digit zip code is entered for all new admissions. The *Avatar Address Validation Instructions* provides directions to complete this form. These instructions are posted on [SharePoint in the Avatar Manual](#) for County staff and will be posted on the [Network of Care](#) for Contractor programs.

We look forward to continuing to partner on implementing this and future state and federally mandated initiatives that help to inform and protect the rights of those we serve.

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