



COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INFORMATION NOTICE

Topic: New Service Codes M96127 & MH2000 for Mental Health Programs

Summary

Date of Notice:	10/4/2024
Forms/Processes Affected:	Progress Notes for Mental Health Plan only; excludes psychiatric and FQ therapy services
Staff Affected:	Non-medical, mental health staff who write progress notes (excludes FQHC)
Change:	Two new Mental Health Plan (MHP) Service codes allow recoupment for certain types of assessment activities provided <i>without</i> the client or support person present, and with <i>no time limits</i>. *see specific details below
Effective Date:	10/1/2024
Information and Training Resources:	Mental Health Plan Service Code Guides have been updated with the new codes, service descriptions and sample progress notes.
What to do if you have questions:	Contact the County BH QI Department – AskQI@santacruzcountyca.gov

Introduction

Two new Mental Health Plan (MHP) Service codes will improve the accuracy of documentation of services provided by the MHP – these codes are now in Avatar and are ready for use by providers as appropriate based on the services they deliver. These service codes have no time limits.

- 96127 Brief Emotional / Behavioral Assessment: Expands ability to bill for use of standardized screening activities such as the CANS/ANSA for licensed staff (LPHA)
- H2000 Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Evaluation: Expands ability to bill for multidisciplinary team meeting activities, as well as CFT meetings

Mental Health Plan Service Code Guides have been updated with new codes and progress note examples. (See [Resources](#) Section for links.)

In-Depth

M96127 Brief Emotional / Behavioral Assessment

- LPHA only (MD/DO, NP/CNS, PA, LCSW/ASW, LMFT/AMFT, LPCC/ APCC, waived)
- No time limit for services.
- May be used for additional time beyond the initial screening tool administration with the client (scoring / documentation of the tool may be included).
- Client and/or significant support persons are not required to be present.
- Minutes are included in direct time.
- Allows billing for completion of standardized screening/assessment tools, scoring the tools and documentation/charting of findings.
- Examples: CANS, ANSA, CBCL, depression inventory, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder scale).

MH2000 and KH2000 Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Evaluation

- Both LPHA and non-LPHA
- This code is for team evaluation and consultation - assessing and coordinating care with other providers and agencies.
- May be used for multidisciplinary meetings.
- Client/support person does not have to be present (except for CFT meetings - see below).
- Limitations:
 - * Not meant for brief check-ins.
 - * The consultation must produce actionable item(s) on behalf of the client and/or...
 - * A change to the client's treatment.
 - * Each claiming provider must make a unique contribution to the consultation.
- **CFT EXCEPTION:** For Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings only, the **child and/or family must be present**. All staff attending may bill for the entire meeting using code KH2000.
- **KH2000 vs KT1017:** All CFT meetings are now coded KH2000. KT1017 is reserved for Intensive Care Coordination activities, primarily provided by the ICC Coordinator.

Resources

Find these documents along with other helpful guidance from County Behavioral Health Quality Improvement on our [CaAIM Resources Page](#).

MHP SERVICE CODE GUIDES: These grids have been updated with the new codes as well as sample progress notes.

[Adult MH LPHA Service Codes](#)

[Adult MH Non-LPHA Service Codes](#)

[Children's MH LPHA Service Codes](#)

[Children's MH Non-LPHA Service Codes](#)