



# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AVATAR INFORMATION NOTICE

TOPIC: **NEW AVATAR FORM: CALAIM ASSESSMENT**

## Policies, Processes and/or Staff Affected

Date	5/30/24
Change/Update	New MHP Psychosocial Assessment Form in AVATAR
Relevant Staff	MHP System-Wide Providers, Supervisors, Managers

**NEW  
CalAIM  
Assessment  
Form**

## Summary/Introduction

**On, or before, 7/1/24**, all Specialty Mental Health Programs, county and contractor, will transition to using the Avatar **CalAIM Assessment** form in place of the Avatar Psychosocial Assessment SC form.

The Avatar **Mental Status Exam** form and **Diagnosis** form remain part of the full assessment.

Watch **CalAIM Assessment Video** for how to use the new form:

SCCBH staff: [Relias](#)

Contract Partner staff: <https://youtu.be/CZsORH6VC1c>

## About the Avatar CalAIM Assessment form

CalAIM Documentation Reform, implemented on 7/1/22, simplified the Mental Health Plan assessment to seven (7) domains, with specific required information to be included in each domain.



The Avatar **CalAIM Assessment** form aims to align with CalAIM assessment standards. Features include:

- 7 Domains
- Non-Episodic / "Current" version and "History" of past versions
- Anticipated Shorter Completion Time
- Lightbulbs & Templates for each Domain
- Reassessment carries over history from prior CalAIM Assessment form

- Links to Diagnosis, Mental Status, Risk Assessment, CANSA, Adult & Adolescent ALOC forms
- Integrated SUD Risk Rating section (Staff trained in ASAM only)
- Two sections to identify staff involved in assessment, one for completed by and one for clinical staff approving (LPHA)
- Types of Services for qualified Specialty Mental Health Services now includes Peer Support Services

## SUD Risk Rating

Enable Section or Disable button: Staff that are trained to conduct an ASAM are to complete the SUD Risk Rating section of the integrated CalAIM Assessment.

When the SUD Risk Rating / ASAM is not completed, this section should remain blank and staff will disable the section by checking the box "SUD Risk Section Not Completed."



## Prior Psychosocial Assessment Forms

Prior versions of the Avatar Psychosocial Assessment SC remain available to read and will not be removed.

## Assessment Update: Timeline Guidance

CalAIM calls for assessment update (reassessment) to be completed "as clinically appropriate, such as when the member's condition changes." MHP Behavioral Health staff have requested guidance regarding when to complete an assessment update (reassessment).

- Updates should be completed whenever clinical judgement determines there has been a change in the client's condition.
- The need for assessment update should be considered every six-months when evaluating CANSA findings (and PSC-35 for youth). If the CANSA and other evaluation materials indicate a change in condition, the assessment should be updated.
- At minimum, assessment updates are best performed:
  - Every 12 months for clients served in the children's system.
  - Every 18 months for clients served in the adult system.

## Resources

Avatar Training: <https://youtu.be/CZsORH6VC1c>

CalMHSA Clinical Documentation Guides: [CalAIM Documentation Guides - California Mental Health Services Authority \(calmhsa.org\)](https://calmhsa.org/Clinical-Documents)

County CalAIM Resources: [CalAIM \(santacruzhealth.org\)](https://santacruzhealth.org/CalAIM)

County QI help desk: [askqi@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:askqi@santacruzcounty.us)