	SOLANO COUNTY QUALITY ASSURANCE
	QA INFORMATION NOTICE 22-10

OCTOBER 1, 2022

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

22-10 (A) CalAIM – CALIFORNIA ADVANCING & INNOVATING MEDI-CAL (COUNTY & CONTRACTOR)

SOLANO BHP SPECIFIC CalAIM UPDATES

Assessment Update Clarifications (County and Contractor)

This is to clarify the guidance in Solano County's updated Assessment policy that an Assessment Update is only needed when there is a change in diagnosis or a change in level of care.

- An Assessment Update is **not** required at each change in level of care, only when clinically warranted to justify the change (e.g. the current assessment is several years old and does not reflect the current needs warranting a transfer to an FSP level of care)
- Solano County's CalAIM Assessment form has a process for a very abbreviated assessment update process. Providers will be asked to include only the information that needs to be updated to reflect the new diagnosis, changes to medical necessity, and/or changes in symptoms/functioning/other factors to reflect current status and/or need for change in level of care

Problem List Updates (Contractor)

There has been discussion about how to indicate who exactly identified items on the "Problem List" that were not identified by MH staff. As programs are developing their "Problem Lists", it may be worth considering adding a field where the person who identified the problem can be listed when not the MH provider (e.g. client, caregiver, primary care).

Solano County owned and operated programs are waiting for Avatar to complete the Problem List for implementation – there is still uncertainty about exactly how this will look and what information will be included. Further guidance about Solano's process will be provided when the Problem List is available in Avatar.

- When implemented in Avatar, Contractor Programs will be asked to data enter clients' Problem Lists in Avatar

CalAIM Implementation

Contractor - Thank you to all Contractor programs who have been working closely with QA to ensure that CalAIM is being implemented in all areas! Policies and forms should now all be completed and implemented at this time.

County and Contractor – All staff should have participated in required CalAIM trainings at this time. Please ensure training attestation forms are submitted for all staff as needed. QA will be reaching out to all programs to address any missing trainings.

FSP & Lockout Progress Notes (County and Contractor)

This is to clarify that progress notes using the FSP and MHSVCLOCK billing codes no longer need to be written in the CalAIM equivalent format to BIRP. These progress notes should include clinically relevant information to explain the service and provide any necessary details, but it does not need to follow the same format as billable notes.

CalAIM resources, including training materials and recordings can be found here:

- Resources for County Staff: Behavioral Health - CalAIM Resources - All Documents (sharepoint.com)

❖ Resources for Contractor Staff: [Mental Health Contract Agencies Solano County (networkofcare.org)](#)

UPDATES TO PREVIOUS QA IN

Correction to QA IN item 22-10 (B) – F code **F32.9 (Major Depressive Disorder, Single Episode, Unspecified)** is **NOT** expired. **This code continues to be valid and can be used**. Code F32.A (Depression, Unspecified) is also a valid diagnosis and can be used. QA is working closely with the Fiscal team to confirm current diagnoses that are expired and causing blocked billing. QA will provide updated information as available.

AVATAR UPDATES

22-10 (B) RETIRING OLD FORMS NOW BEING REPLACED BY CalAIM FORMS (COUNTY & CONTRACTORS):

As new CalAIM forms that replace old forms roll-out in Avatar, QA will be taking steps to "retire" the old version of these forms. The BHP will be alerted as new forms are officially implemented.

- **County and Contractors Using Avatar** –Please ensure as new forms are rolled out:
  - All staff begin using the new form upon alert of official implementation
  - Use of the previous version of that form is immediately discontinued
  - Any DRAFT versions of the previous version in Avatar are either completed in final or deleted, depending on what is appropriate, as soon as the new form is rolled out
- **County and Contractor** – Downtime/Field Based forms will be updated and posted online. Please ensure as new forms are rolled out:
  - All staff begin using the new form upon alert of official implementation
  - Use of the previous version of that form is immediately discontinued
  - Staff is alerted as to how to access the updated versions

22-10 (C) UPDATES TO INDIVIDUAL PROGRESS NOTE CalAIM22 (COUNTY & CONTRACTORS USING AVATAR ONLY):

Slight updates to the Individual Progress Note CalAIM22 will be made in the near future based upon staff feedback and improvement of the display on the report.

- The functionality within the checkbox sections to include further details in a separate text box (e.g. ROI(s) Obtained, Completed Referral) is being removed. If those details need to be included, please include them in the associated text box
- All staff is being asked to select at least one checkbox per required element (i.e. BH need, how BH need was addressed, and next steps). This will ensure that all sentences on the report are fully completed

22-10 (D) YOUTH ASSESSMENT CalAIM22 (COUNTY & CONTRACTORS USING AVATAR ONLY):

The Youth Assessment CalAIM22 is now available in Avatar. A demonstration on the new form was offered on September 29, 2022, and is also being offered October 4, 2022. The new form in Avatar has been designed to be as lean and time efficient as possible, addressing the seven CalAIM assessment domains and utilizing multiple time saving techniques to minimize time/effort needed for documentation.

The recording of the demo can be viewed at this [link on Vimeo](#).

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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