



KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS

October 2, 2025

NSMHS Associates Working Under Licensed Supervisors

Dear Mental Health Provider,

Kern Health Systems (KHS) is responsible for the coverage of Non-Specialty Mental Health Services (NSMHS). These services may be provided by:

- Primary Care Providers
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs)
- Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs)
- Licensed Psychologists
- Psychiatric Physician Assistants (PAs)
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners (NPs)
- Psychiatrists

Services must be rendered in accordance with the practitioner's training and licensure.

Associates Working Under Supervision

Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFTs), Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCCs), Associate Clinical Social Workers (ACSWs), and Psychology Associates may provide psychotherapy services only under the supervision of a licensed and credentialed provider, as required by their respective licensing boards.

Credentialing Requirements for Associates

All associate staff working under a KHS-network licensed provider must have a completed credentialing application submitted to the KFHC Credentialing Department for review and approval prior to providing and billing for services under the licensed supervisor.

Key Points:

- KHS will maintain a roster of all associates.
- Providers must submit updates to KHS Credentialing Department as changes are made and at a minimum of quarterly.
- Each associate must be supervised by a fully credentialed provider with KHS.
- The credentialing process includes a condensed application to verify the associate is not listed on any state or federal sanction, exclusion, or debarment lists.
- Associate providers will not be added to QNXT for individual claims submission. They will be linked internally in the credentialing database for recordkeeping and compliance to their respective group affiliations.
- All services must be billed under the supervising licensed mental health provider's NPI.

PROVIDER Bulletin



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Billing Requirements

When submitting claims:

- The associate or assistant's name must be listed in the Additional Claim Information field (Box 19) or included in an attachment.
- The licensed supervising clinician's NPI must be entered as the billing provider.

Failure to complete the credentialing process prior to rendering services may result in billing denials and compliance issues.

For complete guidelines, please review:

DHCS Non-Specialty Mental Health Services: Psychiatric and Psychological Services

https://mcweb.apps.prd.cammiis.medi-cal.ca.gov/assets/D84845A9-9DA6-434D-8B97-00CD24F101E7/nonspecmental.pdf?access_token=6UyVkRRfByXTZEWlh8j8QaYylPyP5ULO

KHS posts all bulletins on the KHS website, www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com, choose Provider, then Bulletins.

For any questions, please contact the Behavioral Health Department at 661-664-5000 (Bakersfield area) or 1-800-391-2000 (outside Bakersfield area) and ask for extension 7001.

Sincerely,

Melinda Santiago, MS, MHA, LMFT
Director of Behavioral Health
Kern Health Systems