

PROVIDER Bulletin



KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS

April 9, 2025

Provider Notification Request Form Minor Consent to Outpatient Mental Health Treatment or Counseling Notification

Dear Provider,

Effective **July 1, 2024**, a **Behavioral Health (BH) Practitioner** may authorize minors aged **12 years or older** to independently consent to **outpatient mental health treatment and counseling**, provided they are deemed **mature enough** to participate intelligently in treatment, without requiring parental or guardian consent.

To facilitate this process, **Kern Family Health Care (KFHC)** has developed a **Provider Notification Request Form**. This form is now accessible through the **Provider Portal** under the **Assessment** section and will allow providers to document when a minor member is eligible for minor consent to treatment.

Clinical Judgment to Assess Maturity for Consent

The assessment of a minor's maturity for consent will vary based on the individual. Clinical judgment assessments may include, but are not limited to:

- **Cognitive and Emotional Maturity:** Determining if the minor understands the treatment process, potential outcomes, and their rights (including confidentiality and treatment options).
- **Psychological Readiness:** Ensuring the minor is emotionally stable and ready to engage in mental health treatment.
- **Barriers to Participation:** Identifying barriers such as cultural, language, or family dynamics that could affect the minor's decision-making capacity or ability to consent.

Documentation Requirements

Behavioral Health practitioners are required to thoroughly document their clinical judgment in the form of assessments, conversations with the minor, and the rationale for allowing independent consent. This documentation should begin with the **initial clinical assessment** and continue in all **treatment progress notes**. This is essential to ensure compliance with legal and professional standards.

Please note, **minor consent does not replace the best practice standard** of seeking parental involvement and obtaining parental consent whenever possible. The aim is to prevent parental consent from becoming a barrier to treatment, not to eliminate it entirely.

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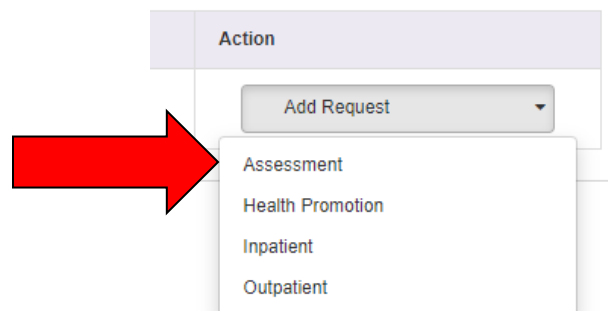
Why Submit the Provider Notification Request Form?

Submitting the **Minor Consent to Outpatient Mental Health Treatment or Counseling Notification** to KFHC is essential to ensure compliance with **APL 24-019** and **Family Code §6924**, which allow minors aged 12 and older to independently consent to outpatient mental health treatment, provided they are deemed mature enough. This submission guarantees proper documentation of consent status, ensures confidentiality, and allows KFHC to monitor and validate accurate billing, treatment plans, and adherence to Medi-Cal guidelines.

Steps for Behavioral Health Practitioners:

As a Behavioral Health Practitioner, you must use your clinical judgment to determine whether a minor is mature enough to participate in services independently. If this assessment is made, please follow the steps below to submit a **Minor Consent to Outpatient Mental Health Treatment or Counseling Notification** via the KFHC Provider Portal:

1. Go to www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com.
2. Click on "Provider Portal."
3. Enter your username and password to log in.
4. Click on "Authorizations."
5. Click on "Menu."
6. Select "New Request."
7. Enter the required information for the member such as Member ID and click Search.
8. Validate the correct member is showing up under search results.
9. Under the "Action" column, select "Assessment" (see screenshot below).



- Next, click on "Add Assessment."
- Click on "BH Minor Consent Notification PP" and click on "Start Assessment" screenshot below.

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Add Assessment



- ☒ BH Minor Consent Notification PP
- ☐ Community Supports Assessment PP
- ☐ ECM Screening Assessment PP
- ☐ Specialty Program Request - PP

Selected Assessment



Actions	Assessment Title
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	BH Minor Consent Notification PP

- The system will lead you to the “BH Minor Consent Notification PP” where you will answer the required questions and click on “Complete.”
- Once submitted, the Assessment will be sent to the Behavioral Health Department for review.

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

If you have any questions related to the Minor Consent to Outpatient Mental Health Treatment or Counseling Notification, please contact your Provider Relations Representative at 1-800-391-2000, Option 5 (silent prompt).

Thank you for your attention and continued partnership in providing high-quality care to minors in our community.

Sincerely,

Melinda Santiago
Director of Behavioral Health
Kern Health Systems