



July 31, 2023

All Plan Letter 22-028

Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services

Dear Provider,

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released All Plan Letter (APL) 22-028, Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services on December 27, 2022. APL 22-028 provides guidance on timely coordinated care across all mental health delivery systems.

As a reminder Kern Health Systems (KHS) and Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (Kern BHRS) are responsible for providing members behavioral and mental health services and must not deny services, please reference APL 22-005 No Wrong for Mental Health Services Policy. **Please see below for division of responsibilities:**

- ❖ KHS-MCP: Mild to moderate behavioral or mental health services.
- ❖ Kern BHRS-MHP: Moderate to severe behavioral or mental services.

Screening

In reference to APL 22-028, KHS and Kern BHRS will provide timely access to screening and use the DHCS approved screening tools for youth under age 21 and adults 21 and over. The initial screening tool will be used when members are not currently receiving care, to determine appropriate mental health delivery system.

Screening will determine member threshold criteria for behavioral or mental health services:

- ❖ Specialty Mental Health Services: KHS will coordinate with Kern BHRS Care Coordination Unit for linkage.
- ❖ Non-Specialty Mental Health Services: KHS will coordinate linkage to KHS Network BH Providers.

A screening tool is **not** required for members who contact a Behavioral Health (BH) or a Mental Health (MH) provider to receive services. BH and MH providers will complete an assessment for the member to determine medical necessity.

Transition

The DHCS Transition of Care Tool ensures members who are transitioning mental health delivery systems or need additional services for their existing behavioral health or mental health treatment continue to receive timely coordinated care. KHS BH Providers should complete the following steps if determined a member requires a higher level of care within the Kern BHRS network.

- ❖ Complete the Transition of Care Tool
- ❖ Submit the completed Transition of Care Tool to KHS Behavioral Health Team at BehavioralHealthTeam@khs-net.com

PROVIDER Bulletin



KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS

KHS Behavioral Health Team will coordinate transfer of care with Kern BHRS Care Coordination Unit (CCU). Kern BHRS Care Coordination Unit will initiate the appropriate services and the KHS Behavioral Health Department will facilitate any additional services needed.

Specialty Mental Health Provider should complete the following steps if it is determined a member requires a lower level of care.

- ❖ Complete the Transition of Care Tool
- ❖ Submit completed Transition of Care Tool to Kern BHRS CCU

Kern BHRS CCU will review and begin the transition through KHS Behavioral Health Team. KHS Behavioral Health Team will coordinate linkage to a KHS BH Provider to initiate services.

KHS non-behavioral health network providers wanting to refer a member for Behavioral or Mental Health Services please call 661-664-5000 (Bakersfield area) or 1-800-391-2000 (outside Bakersfield area) and ask for extension 7001 or 7002 (Spanish) for assistance with linkage to Behavioral Health Team. PCPs who complete PHQ-9, GAD-7, AUDIT-C can send fax to 661-377-7995 or email BehavioralHealthTeam@khs-net.com.

For additional information, please visit:

APL 22-005 No Wrong Door for Mental Health Services Policy is available on the DHCS website: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-005.pdf>

APL 22-028 Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services is available on the DHCS website: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-028.pdf>

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, M.S., LMFT
Director, Behavioral Health
Kern Health Systems