

PROVIDER MEMO

To: Santa Clara Family Health Plan Providers
From: Natalie McKelvey, LCSW, Manager, Behavioral Health
Date: February 23, 2021
Subject: Family therapy as treatment for Medi-Cal beneficiaries

Dear providers,

The Psychological Services Update, June 2020, Bulletin 537, by Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), added family therapy as a new benefit for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The State of California has expressed a priority to screen for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress, and provide targeted, evidence-based interventions that can improve efficacy and efficiency of health care, better support individual and family health and well-being, and reduce long-term health costs. DHCS has directed SCFHP to provide directed payments for providers to complete trauma screenings. For adults and children who have positive scores that indicate traumatic experiences, providers may offer evidence-based family therapy as a treatment modality.

Eligibility criteria	Diagnostic code
Adult has a mental health condition	DSM 5 Diagnosis
Child under 21 with mental health condition	DSM Diagnosis or Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC: 0-5)
Child under 21 or parent/guardian has a history of at least one of the listed risk factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Death of a parent/guardian – Foster home placement – A California Children’s Services (CCS)-eligible condition – Food insecurity, housing instability – Exposure to domestic violence or other traumatic events – Maltreatment – Severe and persistent bullying – Experience of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, learning differences or disability Or a parent with one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A serious illness or disability – A history of incarceration – Depression or other mood disorder – PTSD or other anxiety disorder – Psychotic disorder under treatment – Substance use disorder 	ICD-10 code Z65.9

Eligibility criteria	Diagnostic code
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A history of intimate partner violence or interpersonal violence - Is a teen parent 	
<p>Medical provider suspects a mental health disorder and has referred the child under 21 for evaluation. A specific diagnosis is not required for the first five sessions for children under 21.</p>	<p>ICD-10 code F99</p>

CPT Code	Description
90846*	Family psychotherapy (without the patient present), 50 minutes
90847*	Family psychotherapy (with patient present), 50 minutes
90849**	Multiple-family group therapy
99354*	Prolonged psychotherapy service requiring direct patient contact beyond the usual service; first hour

*Bill for family therapy using the Medi-Cal ID of only one family member per therapy session.

**Bill for multiple-family group therapy using the Medi-Cal ID of only one family member per family.

These services must be rendered by a Psychologist, LCSW, LPCC, or LMFT. Family therapy must be composed of at least two family members.

For more information, please contact Natalie McKelvey, LCSW, Behavioral Health Manager at **408-874-1425** or Nmckelvey@scfhp.com.