



ALCOHOL, DRUG & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
MARYE L. THOMAS, M.D., DIRECTOR

Quality Assurance Office
2000 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 400
Oakland, California 94606
(510-) 567-8100 / TTY (510) 533-5018

Amended Memorandum

Date: May 6, 2013

To: Master Contract Providers

From: Kyree Klimist, MFT, QA Associate Administrator
Ellen Muir, LCSW, EPSDT Coordinator

RE: **Introduction of New Code/Service: Collateral Family Group *REVISED***

NOTE TO READER: See highlighted sections below: the **yellow** section is omitted and the **blue** section is current.

Outpatient programs that provide clinical mental health services now have a new Collateral Family Group code to provide families support and encouragement from other families facing similar issues.

It will be made available immediately in limited RUs and to most Mental Health Outpatient Reporting Units within the Children, Transition-Age Youth and Older Adult Systems of Care, and to a smaller subset of the Reporting Units within the Adult System of Care, as of July 1, 2013. For programs eligible to use this new code, the BHCS Network Office will be following-up with providers to clarify anticipated utilization of this new code via the FY 2013-14 Contract Renewal Packages.

317 COLLATERAL FAMILY GROUP SFC 10 HCPC code H2015

317 Collateral Family Group is defined as a service activity provided in a group setting composed of two or more sets of family members, caretakers or significant support persons in the life of a client in treatment. It includes but is not limited to developing the skills of family members/significant support persons to understand and accept the client's condition (mental illness), support the client in achieving the goals of the client's treatment plan and appropriately respond to the client's needs. Collateral Family Group may include but is not limited to the consultation and training of the family/significant support person(s) to assist in better utilization of the specialty mental health services by the client and to support their wellness plan. **The client need not be present for this activity.**

- Services may be provided by LPHA and/or MHRS level staff, which includes Family Partners. Adjunct Staff may provide this service with evidence of ongoing supervision and within their scope of service.
- The code is NOT billable to Medicare but is billable to Medi-Cal, some Private Insurance and the patient.



- The code is billable to Medicare, Medi-Cal, Private Insurance and the patient as H2015, but will be denied by Medicare at which point the service can be billed to Medi-Cal.

- Collateral Family Group services may be used in providing psycho-education, resources and skills to family members/significant support persons to assist clients in gaining or re-gaining emotional equilibrium and community and family functioning.
- This service is differentiated from 455- 90849, Multi Family Group Psych which can only be provided by LPHAs.
- As with other group services billed through INSYST, the total number of clients **represented** by the group participants will be divided by the duration of the group as noted in the provider's contracted rate for the group service. *(the total number of clients being represented by the family members and not the total family members participating is documented)*
- Collateral Family Group Services can reflect family member engagement in the client's treatment

NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND IT MUST BE PROVIDED WITHIN THE PROVIDER'S CURRENT CONTRACT ALLOCATION.

If you have questions, please send your inquiry to the Quality Assurance Office, QAOffice@acbhcs.org.