



SOLANO COUNTY QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

QI INFORMATION NOTICE 21-05

OCTOBER 1, 2021

PURPOSE: To inform our Solano County staff, contractors and general community of changes in programs, policies, or procedures at the local, State and Federal levels. QI Information Notices (INs) are sent out monthly and posted on our [website](#).

GENERAL UPDATES

21-05(A) COVID-19 EXCEPTIONS UPDATES (COUNTY & CONTRACTOR)

As some COVID restrictions are lifted, many of the service and documentation exceptions allowed by DHCS will be changing:

- DHCS has provided updated guidance on COVID-19 public health emergency flexibilities, [DHCS BHIN 21-046](#)
- The State has clarified that they do not have authority to make decisions about signatures on ROIs – this would be a Federal authority. County Compliance has confirmed that there are Federal exceptions in place for COVID. Since we don't know when Federal exceptions will be rescinded, we recommend that programs begin to create processes to obtain signatures on ROIs in the near future
- More information is available at [COVID-19-Providers-and-Partners \(ca.gov\)](#)

21-05(B) CalAIM – CALIFORNIA ADVANCING & INNOVATING MEDI-CAL (COUNTY & CONTRACTOR):

BH Quality Improvement Program (BH-QIP): As an MHP, there will be many opportunities for us to engage in infrastructure and capacity implementation activities over the next few years through CalAIM. For example, [DHCS BHIN 21-044](#) allows counties to use incentive payments to improve areas such as:

1. Payment Reform
2. Medical Necessity, Eligibility Criteria, and Documentation Redesign
3. Multi-system (e.g., Managed Care, Dental, Behavioral Health) Data Exchange and Care Coordination
4. Improve behavioral health data reporting and electronic health record systems

Ultimately, this will improve many processes for you as a provider and contractor. We will seek input as we get closer to implementation. To learn more about CalAIM, visit this [link](#)

21-05(C) PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST (PSS) CERTIFICATION

[SB 803](#), the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Program, creates the authority for DHCS to establish standards for services and certification by peer support specialists to adults and families. Counties can opt in for the demonstration or pilot project to bill Medi-Cal for peer services. Counties must agree to fund any expenditures not covered by the federal share.

Our Solano BH PSS already offers services funded by MHSa and will continue to do so. Our county will also be opting in and working with [CalMHSA](#) to establish a process for our county PSS to be able to increase peer services and hopefully expand positions to our system of care.

Regarding workforce development, the [Wellness and Recovery team](#) is always seeking people with lived experience to start their training process and volunteer if able to gain experience; that way when certification comes around, we have staff certified and ready to be hired. If you know anyone who is interested, email wru@solanocounty.com.

See [DHCS BHIN 21-041](#) and visit the [DHCS Peer Support page](#) for more details, including webinars and FAQ sheets.

AVATAR UPDATES

No Avatar updates this month

We look forward to continuing to partner on implementing this and future State and Federally mandated initiatives that help to inform and protect the rights of those we serve.

Approved by Rob George, LCSW
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