



POLICY/PROTOCOL and PROCEDURE	Policy Number-A-099
<b>Practice Guidelines</b>	Effective Date: June 1, 2022
	Revised Date:
	Supersedes: N/A

**Purpose:** To establish standards consistent with state and national guidelines for clinical practice.

**Scope:** Kings County Mental Health Plan (MHP) providers, county and subcontracted.

**Definitions:**

Beneficiary: “Beneficiary” means any person certified as eligible for services under the Medi-Cal program.

Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS): For the purposes of this policy, “SMHS” refers to the following outpatient services: Mental Health Services, Targeted Case Management, Crisis Intervention, Intensive Care Coordination, Intensive Home-Based Services, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, and Medication Support Services.

Mental Health Plan (MHP): A county, or counties acting jointly, or another governmental or non-governmental entity that enters into a contract with the Department of Health Care Services to directly provide or arrange for the provision of, and pay for SMHS. For the purpose of this policy, the MHP is Kings County Behavioral Health (KCBH) providers, county, and sub-contracted.

The Plan: For the purpose of this policy, “The Plan” refers to the MHP.

**Policy:** Kings County MHP providers, county and subcontracted shall abide by codes and regulations to provide SMHS consistent with practice guidelines adopted by related health care professionals.

- A. Through the use of consultation and committee with affected health care providers, the plan shall adopt practice guidelines.
- B. Those practice guidelines shall:
  - a. Be based on valid and reliable clinical evidence.
  - b. Consider the needs of the plan’s providers and the needs of the beneficiaries.
  - c. Be periodically evaluated by the plan to remain consistent with valid and reliable clinical evidence and revised when appropriate.
- C. The plan shall disseminate the practice guidelines to all affected providers, and upon request, to beneficiaries, and potential beneficiaries.



- D. The plan shall ensure the practice guidelines are available in threshold languages and alternative formats of review.
- E. The plan shall ensure providers are familiar with practice guidelines through periodic trainings and training verification.
- F. The plan shall take steps to assure that decisions for utilization management, beneficiary education, coverage of services, and other areas to which the guidelines apply are consistent with the practice guidelines.

**Procedure:**

- A. Upon execution of this policy and procedure, the plan will adopt or develop practice guidelines which have been selected by the Documentation Committee. The practice guidelines shall be accessible on the KCBH website in the county threshold languages for potential beneficiaries, beneficiaries, and providers.
- B. KCBH, Quality Assurance will provide an initial training and at least annually thereafter.
- C. KCBH, Quality Assurance in collaboration with Stakeholders shall ensure:
  - a. Practice Guidelines will be valid and reliable.
  - b. Consider the needs of the plan’s beneficiaries and providers.
  - c. Ensure the practice guidelines are updated as necessary to meeting the beneficiaries needs.
- D. This requirement will be subject to monitoring by KCBH in the form of periodic reviews.

**Reference:**

- A. Title 9 California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 1810.326
- B. Title 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 51000.2
- C. Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sections § 438.236

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**Approved by:**

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**07/13/2022**  
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