



## **Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) Services for Clients Receiving Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS)**

From: Sonoma County Behavioral Health Division, QAPI UR Manager

To: All SMHS Providers

Date: December 27, 2022

Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) services are a vital component of Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) for children involved in multiple “child-serving” systems, including the child welfare system, special education, juvenile probation, drug and alcohol services, and other health and human services agencies or legal systems. ICC services are appropriate for children and youth with more intensive needs who are in, or at risk of, placement in residential or hospital settings, but could be effectively served in the home and community. Sonoma County encourages SMHS providers to consider ICC as the appropriate level for all case management for such clients.

In its “Medi-Cal Manual for Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), and Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Services for Medi-Cal Beneficiaries” (2018), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) says that ICC and other intensive services are likely to be necessary for children and youth who:

- Are receiving, or being considered for, Wraparound;
- Are receiving, or being considered for, a specialized care rate due to behavioral health needs;
- Are being considered for other intensive SMHS, including, but not limited to, TBS, or are receiving crisis stabilization/intervention services;
- Are currently in, or being considered for, high-level-care institutional settings, such as group homes or Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs);
- Have been discharged within 90 days from, or currently reside in, or are being considered for placement in, a psychiatric hospital or 24-hour mental health treatment

facility (e.g., psychiatric inpatient hospital, psychiatric health facility [PHF], community treatment facility, etc.);

- Have experienced two or more mental health hospitalizations in the last 12 months;
- Have experienced two or more placement changes, within 24 months, due to behavioral health needs;
- Have been treated with two or more antipsychotic medications, at the same time, over a three-month period;
- If the child is zero through five years old and has more than one psychotropic medication, the child is six through 11 years old and has more than two psychotropic medications, or the child is 12 through 17 years old and has more than three psychotropic medications;
- If the child is zero through five years old and has more than one mental health diagnosis, the child is six through 11 years old and has more than two mental health diagnoses, or the child is 12 through 17 years old and has more than three mental health diagnoses;
- Have two or more emergency room visits in the last 6 months due to primary mental health condition or need, including, but not limited to, involuntary treatment under California Welfare and Institutions (W & I) Code section 5585.50;
- Have been detained, pursuant to W&I sections 601 and 602, primarily due to mental health needs; or
- Have received SMHS within the last year, and have been reported homeless within the prior six months.

This list is to provide examples, not criteria, and it is not exhaustive.

Children and youth eligible for and receiving ICC, and the providers serving them, should also be participating in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings at least once every 90 days. While each SMHS provider participating in the CFT meeting should claim that time to the ICC code, any other case management arising from plans and discussions at those meetings would also qualify as an ICC service and should be coded as ICC.

In general, if a beneficiary is involved with two or more child-serving systems, the child should be receiving ICC. ICC includes facilitating cross-system communication and planning, coordinating of mental health care, and otherwise referring to and coordinating with other professional agencies and providers in the child's life.

If you have any questions about ICC or other documentation, please email [BHQA@sonoma-county.org](mailto:BHQA@sonoma-county.org).