

# QRTips

February 2019

## Medi-Cal Documentation Reminders

### **14-Day Different Day Documentation Rule**

- Progress notes must have the date when the service was provided, and when the documentation was completed. Even if the documentation was completed on the same date of service, this must be clear in the note.
- All County and Contract programs are expected to follow the 14-day Different Day Documentation rule. The date of service is always counted as day 1, and anything written beyond 14 days from that date is considered a non-compliant service, and should be entered using a non-compliant CPT code. For certain programs (i.e., STRTP) there may be different documentation timelines. Please check with your Service Chief or Program Director for specific program requirements and timelines.

### **Assessment**

- Initial assessments must be completed as soon as the relevant information to establish a diagnosis and Care Plan is obtained.
- Assessment progress notes are subject to medical necessity requirements from the first session. This means that progress notes should document a Medi-Cal included diagnosis and all of the activities performed to evaluate the client's mental health.
- Assessment notes that repeat the same information that was collected during previous assessment sessions are considered overbilling and can be subject to recoupment during an audit.
- Assessment typically involves activities such as performing a Mental Status Examination, obtaining the client's clinical history, investigating relevant cultural issues and psychological testing.
- The information collected to establish the primary diagnosis **clearly** follows the criteria established in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5). Failure to do this may result in the claim recouped during an audit.
- Clinicians determine the corresponding included ICD-10 mental health diagnosis for billing purposes. As a reminder, all applicable ICD-10 diagnoses are subject to change.

[MHP Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment 3; Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations \(CCR\) § 1830.205\(b\) \(1\) and 1830.210; and Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services Information Notices](#)