

To:	BHS All Staff, County-Operated Programs, and BHS Contracted Service Providers
From:	Behavioral Health Services
Date:	July 17, 2025
Title	SmartCare Update – FY25-26 Service Rates, Provider Types, and Procedure Codes (Effective 7/15/25)

Effective July 15, 2025, the SmartCare environment will be updated to reflect:

- FY25-26 Specialized Mental Health Services (SMHS) & DMC-ODS service rates

Effective July 28, 2025, the SmartCare environment will be updated to reflect:

- Revised provider type credentials, as outlined in the [FY25–26 SMHS Billing Manual March 2025, V 3.0](#)
- Updated Procedure Codes, as outlined in DHCS [FY25-26 Service Table](#)

Credential & Provider Type Updates

The Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts Clinical Trainee (LPHA CT) credential will be separated into:

- MFT CT
- PCC CT
- LPHA CT (to be updated at a later date to reflect SW CT)

Action Required: No taxonomy changes needed. Management Information System (MIS) will contact clinical trainees directly to confirm designations and update credentials in SmartCare. An updated ARF form will be released at a later date that includes all new provider types/credentials.

New Provider Types

The below new provider types have been approved by DHCS. To request these provider types/credentials, they must be approved by your COR. Programs are advised to reach out to their COR regarding any questions as to whether these provider types are appropriate to be included in your contracted staff.

Enhanced Community Health Worker (E-CHW) (SMHS, DMC, DMC-ODS)

As part of the BH-Connect Initiative, DHCS has added a new provider type: **Enhanced Community Health Worker (E-CHW)**.

E-CHWs:

- Are distinct from Peer Support Specialists and Case Managers
- Provide health education and system navigation for Medi-Cal members
- Will bill using only CHW-specific procedure codes

Next Steps: Programs should **wait for additional guidance** from BHS QA before incorporating E-

For More Information:

- Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) or
- QIMatters.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov

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CHWs into services. Tip sheets and training will be provided at a later date.

Certified Alcohol & Other Drug (AOD) Counselor (for SMHS)

Certified AOD Counselors are now approved as Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) provider types. These individuals must be:

- Certified or registered by a DHCS-recognized organization
- Accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)

Next Steps: Programs should **wait for additional guidance** from BHS QA before incorporating AOD Counselors into services. DHCS has not yet issued clear guidance regarding scope of practice, documentation, or supervision requirements. Tip sheets and guidance will be provided at a later date.

Traditional Healer & Natural Helper (DMC-ODS only- Indian Health Care Providers)

Individual practitioners of traditional health care practices must be employed by or contracted with an Indian Health Care Provider (IHCP) and receive approval by DHCS to provide this benefit.

New Procedure Code Additions – BH-Connect Evidence-Based Practices – Coming Soon!

San Diego County has opted into the BH-Connect Initiatives and will be rolling out required Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) in phased rollouts. These include Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) fidelity model, Forensic ACT, Coordinated Specialty Care (for First Episode Psychosis), Supported Employment, and Clubhouses. Programs are advised to reach out to their COR and/or QA for additional guidance. Additional communication and guidance will be provided in accordance with BHS planned rollouts of these EBPs.

The following new procedure codes have been added to the SMHS Billing Manual and Service Table; however, these procedure codes are specific to BH-Connect EBPs and will only be available to those programs that are contracted or designated to provide these evidence-based practices/services and have the appropriately credentialed and certified staff.

Programs are advised to reach out to their COR to determine if these EBPs align with their current contract requirements. QA communication providing documentation guidance and provider requirements regarding these EBPs will be forthcoming.

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Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) (SMHS only)

- Must be provided by certified PCIT providers – must be licensed/registered/waivered LPHA.
- Identified via **Modifier 22** using the **Mode of Delivery: PCIT** in SmartCare.
- Final BHIN has not been released by DHCS – additional guidance forthcoming.
- Services that have been claimed with Mode of Delivery: PCIT by providers who are not certified in PCIT for non-PCIT services must be corrected via the *My Reported Error* process.

BH-Connect Multisystemic Therapy (MST) – HCPCS H2033 (15 min) (SMHS only)

- Must be delivered by MST-certified providers – must be licensed/registered/waivered LPHA.
- These services will be billed at bundled rates:
 - Full Month (6+ encounters, 4 of which must be F2F) or
 - Partial Month (4-5 encounters, 3 of which must be F2F)
- Final BHIN has not been released by DHCS – additional guidance forthcoming.

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) – HCPCS H0036 (15 min) (SMHS, DMC, DMC-ODS)

- Must be provided by FFT, LLC-certified professionals – must be licensed/registered/waivered LPHA.
- Final BHIN has not been released by DHCS – additional guidance forthcoming.

Next Steps: Additional guidance on qualifications, documentation, lockouts, telehealth limits, and claiming processes for PCIT, MST, and FFT will be released by BHS QA.

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