

SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES DIVISION

DATE: October 7, 1998

BHRS POLICY: 98-18

SUBJECT: Psychological Testing - Referral Protocol

AUTHORITY: Divisional

AMENDED: December 8, 2010

BACKGROUND

BHRS may, as of July 1, 1998, reimburse community-based contract psychologists for the provision of testing to indigent clients, as well as to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. BHRS may also choose to employ or contract with psychologists to provide indicated testing to adults and youth on referral from the court or from BHRS clinicians.

Psychological testing can play an important role in the assessment of client needs. In situations where the client's clinical presentation is confusing or ambiguous, such testing can provide greater diagnostic certainty, screen for organicity, and clarify cognitive functioning.

Psychological testing should be considered only when other assessment tools have been tried and questions important to clinical decisions remain.

PURPOSE

To establish a procedure for referral of clients who are in treatment in county behavioral health clinics, for ancillary psychological testing.

PROCEDURE

- A therapist wishing to refer a client for testing must consult with and receive the approval of his/her treatment team (if appropriate) and Unit Chief. This consultation shall be documented in the client's chart, with the Unit Chief's recommendation.
- For approved referrals, the therapist must communicate the testing plan to the client or parent/guardian and have reasonable assurance that the client is willing to follow through with the testing process.
- The therapist must discuss transportation issues with the client and be prepared to arrange

for transportation to the testing appointment(s) if necessary. Testing can also be provided in the home clinic of the referred client.

- The therapist fills out the attached form, Referral for Psychological Evaluation. The therapist will describe clinical issues and geographic, language, or other special needs of the client.
- The BHRS Consulting Psychologist will review and approve the request for testing.
- The therapist will work with the BHRS psychologist to set up testing appointment(s). The therapist will support the client in following through with testing.
- In the case of a BHRS employed or contracted psychologist, summary results will be written in the Avatar system and thereby made available to the referring clinician.
- The therapist may consult with the psychologist about the test findings, as needed.

Approved: Signature on file
Louise Rogers, Director
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Attachment: Referral for Psychological Evaluation