



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
STANDARD PRACTICE

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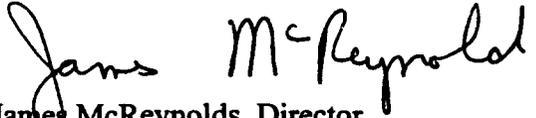
DEPARTMENT

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SUBJECT

DIAGNOSIS OF MENTAL DISORDER

APPROVED


James McReynolds, Director

I. PURPOSE

To ensure that appropriate and timely client diagnoses are established by professionally qualified persons authorized by the Department.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Department that client diagnoses and changes in diagnoses shall be made by professionally qualified persons and that those persons be viewed by the State Department of Behavioral Health and by third-party payers as being qualified to diagnose.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. Pursuant to the policy, those currently authorized to provide mental disorder diagnoses in the Department are:

Licensed physicians
Licensed psychologists
Licensed program manager II's
Clinic supervisors

- B. Clinical therapists other than licensed psychologists may offer diagnostic impressions on Department forms (such as intake), but these diagnostic impressions will be countersigned by a person who is authorized to diagnose.

- C. Diagnosis will be made according to the criteria in the *American Psychiatric Association's Diagnosis and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Edition Four*. Diagnoses from ICD-9-CM may be used if necessary.

- D. In the event that there is disagreement about the proper diagnosis, the involved staff should first discuss the matter face-to-face. If there is no resolution, then the psychiatrist's diagnosis will be utilized. In all cases, there should only be one working diagnosis.

- E. See the *Outpatient Chart Manual* item on Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis for instructions regarding coordination of diagnosis among several open charts on the same client, and other matters pertaining to diagnosis.

LV:smc