



Provider Alert

To: Sharp Health Plan Providers and Provider Office Staff
From: Sharp Health Plan
Date: April 10, 2023
Subject: Maternal Mental Health: SB 1207, Health and Safety Code (Section 1367.625)

Attention Provider Partners,

The Regulation: SB 1207, Health and Safety Code (Section 1367.625)

Implementation Date: July 2023

Description:

The Maternal Mental Health law, as described in the Health and Safety Code (Section 1367.625) requires that a licensed health care practitioner (provider) who provides prenatal or postpartum care for a patient shall ensure that the mother is offered screening or is appropriately screened for maternal mental health conditions. In addition, Health Plans are required to develop a mental health program designed to promote quality and cost-effective outcomes.

Maternal mental health means a mental health condition that occurs during pregnancy or during postpartum period and includes, but is not limited to, postpartum depression.

California Senate Bill (SB) 1207 amends the current law to include the addition of quality measures to encourage screening, diagnosis, treatment, and referral to appropriate mental health services. These quality measures will be monitored by the health plan for compliance and reported. Additionally, the Plan's Maternal Mental Health program guidelines and criteria will be made available to providers, including all contracted obstetric providers.

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SHARP Health Plan

Sharp Health Plan has a maternal mental health program which is designed to assist mothers (prenatal and postpartum) with healthcare needs, including mental health and substance use disorder needs. Assistance includes explanation of health care benefits, making appointments, and providing and connecting with health plan and community resources. Sharp Health Plan offers case management services to members who qualify and includes members with a maternal mental health condition. Referrals will be accepted from any source, including, but not limited to, providers, members, and hospital staff.

What You Can Do:

Providers who have a positive screening can direct mothers to a Sharp Health Plan network behavioral health provider. A referral for behavioral health is not required. In addition, providers can refer mothers to Sharp Health Plan's case management department. A case management referral can be made by completing the Case Management Referral form found in the Forms section of the Sharp Health Plan website, or by calling 1-858-499-8300.

Sharp Health Plan's maternal mental health program guidelines and criteria are available to providers upon request.

Where Can You Find Updates:

Sharp Health Plan's policy and procedure, HS-BH-02, has been updated on the provider portal. To access policies and procedures, please log into your Sharp Connect provider portal account at www.sharphealthplan.com/login and refer to the policies, manuals, & guides link on the portal home page. Additionally, our Provider Operations Manual (POM) for commercial plans has been updated to include verbiage on page 91. You can find the POM online at sharphealthplan.com/pom.

Best regards,

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