

Dyadic Behavioral Health Integration and Billing Pediatrics Population of Focus Implementation Guide

Guidance For Key Activity 8

Provide Dyadic Care: Screen for Postpartum Depression

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Dyadic behavioral health is an important therapeutic service for children and adults within a primary care setting. Screening caregivers of children is crucial in the phases of postpartum depression and on an ongoing basis for treatment for parent-child conflict. This ensures that infants and older children are receiving the care and support they need as they grow and develop. When a parent or caregiver receives mental and behavioral health services, they are better able to support their children's resilience and healthy growth.

As of January 1, 2023, dyadic behavioral health (DBH) services are available for reimbursement through managed care plans (MCPs). Learn more at [Dyadic-Services \(ca.gov\)](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dyadic-services).

DBH services include screening and therapy services for maternal depression during a pediatric visit, developmentally appropriate parenting education, and child and parent social emotional health care coordination.

These services are reimbursable through the MCP to provide sustainable services and cover the cost for the clinic to hire and maintain the mental health providers on staff. Additionally, traditionally less costly unlicensed social workers, associate marriage and family therapists, and psychology assistants and interns may render mental health services under a supervising clinician.

“Per California Welfare and Institutions Code section 14132.755, the Dyadic Services benefit is a family- and caregiver-focused model of care intended to address developmental and behavioral health conditions of children as soon as they are identified, and that fosters access to preventive care for children, rates of immunization completion, coordination of care, child social-emotional health and safety, developmentally appropriate parenting, and maternal mental health.¹ The dyadic services benefit is designed to support implementation of comprehensive models of dyadic care, such as Healthy Steps and Dulce, that work within the pediatric clinic setting to identify and address caregiver and family risk factors for the benefit of the child.”

Sources

1. Durhan, Dana. “All Plan Letter 22-029 (Revised).” DHCS, DHCS, 20 Mar. 2023, www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-029.pdf. Accessed 13 Aug. 2024.