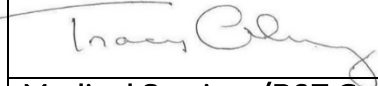



Policy Title: Sensitive Services		POLICY #: 10.2.10	
		Line of business: Medi-Cal	
Department Name: Utilization Management	Original Date 11/97	Effective Date 5/19	Revision Date 12/18, 3/22, 9/22, 2/23
VP Approval: Tracy Alvarez, VP, Medical Care Solutions 		Date of Approval: 2/17/2023	
Medical Services/P&T Committee: (If Applicable) PHP CMO 		Date of Committee Review: 2/9/2023	

A. PURPOSE:

To define the policy and procedure and provide guidance on how Blue Shield Promise Health Plan (BSCPHP) manages privacy for members twelve (12) years of age and older.

B. DEFINITION:

1. **Sensitive Services** means those services that are defined as services related to sexual assault, substance or alcohol abuse, pregnancy, family planning, and sexually transmitted diseases for members.

C. POLICY:

California regulations provide for beneficiaries to receive confidential treatment, without parental consent, for family planning, pregnancy termination, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV testing, counseling, and treatment without Prior Authorization required. See UM policy and procedure for each of these specific services for details of providing, or referring members, for these services. Referrals and authorization for these services shall be handled with utmost confidentiality. Communication by letter, fax or telephone shall be done only with the signed consent of the member.

D. PROCEDURE:

- I. Family Planning: Members may obtain these services through their regular Primary Care Provider (PCP), for Medi-Cal members they may access other community providers without prior authorization.
- II. HIV Testing and Treatment: Members may access confidential HIV counseling and testing services, and treatment as specified in the HIV policy and procedure, from

community providers. HIV services and counseling can be obtained through provider network and out-of-network local health department and family planning providers without prior authorization.

- a. Due to the elevated needs of cultural competence and sensitivity for members who identify as LGBT, referrals to organizations such as local LGBT centers or Aids Healthcare Foundation with HIV testing and counseling services should be considered for this population where appropriate.

III. Outpatient Mental Health Care: Children who are mature enough to participate intelligently in their mental health treatment and/or counseling, and are requesting mental health treatment and counseling must submit to the county welfare department a statement from a mental health professional which states that the child needs mental health treatment or counseling and the estimated length of time the treatment will be needed. The statement must also specify that the individual meets either of the following:

- a. In danger of causing serious physical or mental harm to self or others without mental health treatment; OR
- b. An alleged victim of incest or child abuse.

IV. Pregnancy Termination: The termination of pregnancy for both medical and elective reasons is a covered benefit under BSCPHP. Pregnancy termination is not a family planning service. Parental consent is not required. However, all other applicable patient consent requirements must be met.

V. Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Medi-Cal Members have freedom of choice in obtaining care for STDs. Members will be encouraged to obtain care for these conditions from their PCP or referred provider, but may directly access care from community providers, as specified in the STD policy and procedure.

E. MONITORING:

N/A

F. REPORTING:

N/A

G. REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS:

1. APL 15-020 Abortion Services
2. Health and Safety Code 1367.69
3. Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual, Section 50147.1; 50163 Manual Letter No.: 183

H. REVISION HISTORY:

Date	Modification (Reviewed and/or revised)	E-Filing Number
2/2023	Updated Regulatory Requirements DHCS	