

COMPLIANCE BULLETIN

Fresno County Behavioral Health

Publication Date: 03/06/2026

POLICY NOTICE

- ❖ Policy Being Summarized Implementation of ASCMI (Authorization to Share Confidential Member Information)
- ❖ CB-048
- ❖ Effective date: 3/16/2026
- ❖ Policy created by: Bulletins and News, Compliance Bulletins, DBH Plans
- ❖ This notice is intended for:
 - DBH Operated MH Programs
 - DBH Operated SUD Programs
 - DBH Administration
 - Contract MH Providers
 - Contract SUD Providers
 - Prescribers

The intent of this bulletin is to notify providers that the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is beginning the transition to Authorization to Share Confidential Information (ASCMI) on **March 16, 2026**, particularly since the Coordinated Care Consent (CCC) will be discontinued in SmartCare at the end of March. We recognize that additional guidance will continue to roll out through future phases from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA). As that happens, we'll provide updates and additional directions as needed.

Overview

The ASCMI is a standardized consent form developed by the DHCS as part of statewide efforts to improve how sensitive health and social services information (HSSI) is shared across care partners.

ASCMI is designed to streamline and modernize consent processes so care partners, such as providers, health plans, counties, and social service agencies can coordinate care more effectively while maintaining compliance with state and federal privacy laws.

Purpose and Goals

ASCMI was created to:

- Promote coordinated care by standardizing how consent is obtained and managed.
- Reduce barriers caused by complex privacy rules, outdated systems, paper-based forms, and fragmented data exchange.
- Support CalAIM programs such as Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports by enabling secure, real-time data sharing between authorized partners.
- Improve interoperability across electronic health record (EHR) systems.

In short, ASCMI is a statewide interoperability tool that standardizes consent for sharing sensitive information across California's health and social services systems.

Key Components

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1. The ASCMI Form is an authorization to release information that complies with HIPAA and 42 CFR Part

2. It clearly outlines:

- What information the person served agrees to share
- How the information may be shared
- With whom the information may be shared

2. Two Versions

- AB 133 Version – Designed for Medi-Cal members and aligned with California law under CalAIM.
- Non-AB 133 Version – Available for all Californians, regardless of insurance status, and allows more detailed consent options. **This version is now available in SmartCare.**

3. Revocation Form

Allows a person served to withdraw consent and set sharing preferences to “do not share.”

How ASCMI Works

1. Care partners obtain consent using the ASCMI form (electronic form is in SmartCare).
2. Consent preferences are stored and managed securely. In future phases, this will include use of a Consent Management Platform (CMP).
3. Authorized partners can verify consent before sharing information, enabling secure, compliant, real-time data exchange when permitted.
4. The ASCMI form will be valid:
 - For one year or
 - When revoked or
 - Person served turns 18 years old or
 - Guardianship changes

Care Partners

Care Partners include:

- Primary care physicians
- Mental health specialists
- Substance use disorder providers, such as opioid treatment programs and residential treatment programs
- On site Housing Supportive Service providers

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- Community-based organizations
- Correctional facility providers and case managers
- Health insurance plans, including Medi-Cal managed care plans and behavioral health plans.
- Qualified health information organizations
- County health and human services agencies
- State health and human services agencies

Care Partners **do not** include:

- Courts & Criminal Investigations
- Employers
- School Districts Administrators (outside of treatment teams)
- Other 3rd Parties

Fresno County Implementation

Although DHCS is expected to require ASCMI statewide sometime in 2026, Fresno County is implementing it on **March 16** to prepare in advance and ensure a smooth transition.

SmartCare Full Users:

- The ASCMI Non-AB 133 document is now available in SmartCare.
- It will replace the existing Coordinated Care Consent (CCC).
- Active CCCs will continue to govern in SmartCare until a new ASCMI is completed for that person served.

SmartCare Lite Users and Providers Not Using SmartCare:

SmartCare Lite users and providers who do not use SmartCare should continue to follow their current processes for consent and releases of information, complete the ASCMI form, and store the signed form in the person served's chart.

Transition from Coordinated Care Consent (CCC)

The Coordinated Care Consent (CCC) was developed by California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) to mirror the draft ASCMI while DHCS finalized its version. The CCC functioned as a beta version of ASCMI and has been used in SmartCare from 2023 through 2026. **The CCC form will be discontinued effective March 31, 2026, and will no longer be available for use.**

Future Phases

Subsequent implementation phases will focus on:

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- Multi-language support
- Revocation workflow enhancements
- Interoperability improvements
- Consent Management Platform (CMP) integration
- Overall consent functionality improvements

If you have any questions related to ASCMI, please contact your supervisor or assigned contract analyst and be sure to share this information with your teams.

Below are links to the ASCMI forms, other key documents and more information on the ASCMI implementation.

DHCS Webpage: [ASCMI-CalAIM](#)

DHCS FAQs: [Authorization to Share Confidential Member Information](#)

CalMHSA Legal Training and SmartCare Training: [ASCMI Form Training Webinar - 2023 CalMHSA](#)