



# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**SUSAN L. HOLT**

DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
PUBLIC GUARDIAN

August 16, 2023

## **Subject: Changes to Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) and Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS) Claiming**

Dear Valued Provider,

The Fresno County Mental Health Plan (FCMHP) is releasing this notification letter to inform providers of the changes in the ability to provide and claim both ICC and IHBS, effective immediately. These changes are directly related to the implementation of the FCMHP's new Electronic Health Record (EHR), SmartCare, and California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Payment Reform, both of which went into effect July 1, 2023.

Previously, both ICC and IHBS were Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) that any FCMHP provider could provide and claim for, for any Medi-Cal beneficiary youth who met the requirements of these services. The aforementioned requirements can be found both on the *Fresno County ICC & IHBS Consideration Tool* and in the *Medi-Cal Manual 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition – ICC, IHBS & Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC)*. As of January 1, 2022 all providers of the FCMHP have been required to complete the *Fresno County ICC & IHBS Consideration Tool* for every youth being served ages 21 and under. If the youth met the criteria for ICC and/or IHBS, providers could determine if these services were medically necessary for the youth and their family, and if so, could provide either ICC services or both ICC and IHBS **only** if they had requested prior authorization to provide IHBS (Per MHSUDS IN 19-026, superseded by MHSUDS IN 22-016, IHBS requires prior authorization by the FCMHP). These services have always been two distinct, but related services with two distinct claiming codes.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, with the implementation of SmartCare EHR and CalAIM Payment Reform **the ability to claim for ICC separately from IHBS is no longer available**. CalAIM Payment Reform changed ICC and IHBS claiming to both include the modifier "HK".

- If this modifier is added to any Targeted Case Management (TCM) claims, those claims would become ICC.
- If this modifier is added to any other SMHS claims, those claims become IHBS.

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The FCMHP's new EHR SmartCare only has the ability to claim for the "HK" modifier for both services; there is no option to only claim for ICC by itself. If this modifier is turned "on" for a youth in SmartCare, then all of that youth's claiming, regardless of type of service or provider submitting the claim, will automatically be claimed as both ICC and IHBS. Since IHBS still requires prior authorization from the FCMHP, per the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) MHSUDS IN 22-016, for providers to claim for ICC, they will also need to submit a request to provide and claim for IHBS.

The FCMHP Managed Care Division provides oversight, monitoring, and authorization approval or denial of all requests for IHBS authorization. Due to the new circumstances regarding IHBS claiming, the Managed Care Division will be issuing a notice of a new process for IHBS Authorization Requests, to be announced shortly.

In the meantime, **all providers who have or want to solely provide ICC services without providing IHBS will no longer be able to claim for ICC alone.** Those providers will need to **choose either of the following options** in regards to their ICC services:

1. **Comply with the new IHBS authorization request process** as of the date it is announced to begin (more information to come on this) and **provide all services as ICC and IHBS** to youth who qualify for ICC and IHBS .

**OR**

2. **Claim all ICC services as TCM.** This in no way restricts the process of traditional ICC, with the establishment of an ICC facilitator, CFT and ICC plan. All of these processes and documents may still exist in the youth's chart to support all TCM activities claimed. TCM and ICC claim as the same SmartCare code TCM/ICC - 105, and there is no reimbursement difference between the two services.

All FCMHP providers will continue to be required to complete a *Fresno County ICC & IHBS Consideration Tool* on all youth ages 21 and under, to be maintained in the youth's medical record and updated as clinically necessary. No FCMHP provider will be penalized for providing ICC-like services that are claimed as TCM instead of ICC to youth who qualify for ICC and IHBS per the Consideration Tool. If the clinician, family, and youth decide there is no clinical need for IHBS as it is not a medically necessary service, this determination will just need to be documented in the youth's chart.

Please begin utilizing the new above-outlined options for providing and claiming ICC upon receipt of this notice. Please also be on the lookout for the new IHBS Authorization Request Process to be issued shortly.

Thank you for being a partner with the Fresno County Mental Health Plan as we work together to make a positive impact on the people we serve.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact one of the Children's System of Care URs at (559) 600-4645 or DBHAuthorizations@fresnocountyca.gov .

Sincerely,



Brittany Storle, LMFT  
Utilization Review Specialist  
Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health

Enclosures: Fresno County ICC & IHBS Consideration Tool  
Medi-Cal Manual 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition – ICC, IHBS, & TFC

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