

**INYO COUNTY HHS  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

*POLICY/PROCEDURE*

**SUBJECT: GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR MANAGED  
CARE PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

**POLICY**

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ICHHS-BH will adopt practice guidelines in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.236(b) and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 1810.326.

**PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

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- I. Practice Guidelines represent critical factors to be considered in the provision of mental health services but are not comprehensive treatment protocols. An in-depth knowledge of the clinical skills essential for the provision of quality mental health services to consumers should result from ongoing clinical training and regular review of relevant professional literature and education.
- II. These Practice Guidelines represent the best thinking and consensus among mental health clinicians and experts.
- III. These Practice Guidelines will apply to a certain aspect of treatment with ICHHS-BH consumers such as use of a type of medication or the use of an evidence-based practice. Such as strengths model case management.
- IV. These Practice Guidelines are not absolute, but practice that is outside of such parameters requires special consideration, justification, and documentation.
- V. Changes in current regimens made for the purpose of conformity to these Practice Guidelines should be initiated only after careful consideration of the original reason for initiating the current treatment.
- VI. These Practice Guidelines reflect the current interpretations of best practices, and may change as new information and/or technology becomes available.

- VII. Special efforts must be given in respect to the unique values, culture, spiritual beliefs, lifestyles and personal experience in the provision of mental health services to individual consumers.
- VIII. ICHHS-BH will disseminate the guidelines to all affected providers and, upon request, to beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries.
- IX. ICHHS-BH will take steps to assure that decisions for utilization management, beneficiary education, coverage of services, and any other areas to which the guidelines apply shall be consistent with the guidelines.