



Monterey County Behavioral Health Policy and Procedure

Policy Number	443
Policy Title	Scope Of Practice
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Section 623-630• California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Section 1840.346• California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Section 1840.344• California Business and Professions Code Sections 2000-2521• California Business and Professions Code Sections 2570-2571• California Business and Professions Code Sections 2700-2838.4• California Business and Professions Code Sections 2840-2895.5• California Business and Professions Code Sections 2900-2999• California Business and Professions Code Sections 3500-3546• California Business and Professions Code Sections 3600-3686• California Business and Professions Code Sections 4500-4620• California Business and Professions Code Sections 4980-4989• California Business and Professions Code Sections 4991-4998.5• California Business and Professions Code Sections 4999.10-4999.129• California Welfare & Institutions Code Section 5751.2
Form	MCBH Documentation Guide
Effective	July 1993 REVISED: February 26, 2015

Policy

It is the policy of Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) that its providers, both direct staff and contractors, practice within the scope of their professional competence and responsibility as defined by relevant laws, professional standards, MCBH policies, and the MCBH Documentation Guide.

Assessments, diagnoses, and treatment plans are to be completed only by licensed or license-eligible providers. Non-license eligible staff may contribute relevant information but the completion of assessments (along with clinical recommendations), determination of diagnoses, and the formulation of the treatment plan is the responsibility of licensed or license-eligible providers.

It is also the policy of MCBH that co-signatures by a professional with a larger scope of professional competence and responsibility will not allow a provider with a lesser scope of professional competence and responsibility to practice outside of their professional scope. For example, the co-signature of a licensed or license-eligible provider (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed clinical social worker) will not allow a non-license eligible staff member (e.g., mental health rehabilitation specialist or equivalent) to provide

18 psychotherapy. This is but one of many possible examples and this provision of the policy is not limited to
19 only this exact scenario.

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21 Providers found in violation of this policy will be immediately instructed to cease the provision of services out
22 of the scope of their professional competence and responsibility. Providers found in violation will be referred
23 to MCBH Administration, Monterey County Health Department Human Resources, or the appropriate contract
24 monitor. Non-supervisory staff who wishes to report any violation of this policy can also contact the
25 Compliance Hotline (831-755-4545) and the report will be investigated as per [Policy 104 – Compliance Plan](#).
26 Providers found in violation may be subject to Monterey County progressive discipline or contractually
27 established sanctions.

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29 Billing for services provided out of the scope of professional competence and responsibility of the provider
30 will be disallowed.