

CLINICAL OPERATIONS1600 Ninth Street, Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 14, 2013

From: Clinical Operations

To: All DSH Clinicians

Subject: Implementation of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition (DSM-5)

The American Psychiatric Association's (APA) fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders was released May 18, 2013. The new edition contains multiple changes including new and eliminated disorders, changes to diagnostic criteria and elimination of the multi-axial diagnostic system.

In order to allow ample time for clinicians and other involved parties to learn about and become familiar with the changes to new manual, the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) plans to transition to use of the DSM-5 by approximately January 1, 2014. Prior to this date, clinicians should continue to use the DSM-IV-TR, and all diagnoses given should clearly indicate that they are based on the DSM-IV-TR criteria until transition to the DSM-5 has been completed.

In an effort to educate all clinicians to the new DSM, DSH clinical leadership is taking steps to secure in-person one-day trainings over the next six months. Additionally, statewide on-line access for clinicians to the DSM-5 via www.psychiatryonline.org is in process.

Lastly, steps are being taken to work with Information Technology and HIMD to transition all forms to be in keeping with the DSM-5's diagnostic and statistical codes and elimination of the multi-axial diagnostic system.

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