



Monterey County Behavioral Health Policy and Procedure

Policy Number	466
Policy Title	Coordination Of Psychiatric Medication Services – Adult Services
References	None
Form	None
Effective	August 25, 2004

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Policy

Monterey County Health Department Behavioral Health Division Adult System of Care is based on a best practice method of service delivery where a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach is taken. This practice requires that psychiatrist and social worker(s) work together to deliver a full range of services that assist individuals with serious mental illness to reach their maximum potential in the least restrictive environment. The best patient care occurs when the psychiatrist, who is prescribing medication, and the social worker, that is helping to improve community functioning and/or is developing mental health interventions, are communicating regularly in a collaborative environment. Furthermore, uncoordinated medical and psychiatric care may lead to over-prescription of medicine that, in combination, may have adverse side effects.

Procedures

I. Qualifications for receiving services from the Adult System of Care

At the time an individual is admitted to the Adult System of Care, a psychiatrist will be assigned to begin the assessment and treatment process for their mental illness. At that point, it should be explained to the individual that they are agreeing to be treated solely by the County of Monterey Health Department Behavioral Health Division's Adult System of Care for psychiatric service and agree to discontinue all treatment by other psychiatrists. If an individual decides to continue with a community psychiatrist we will discontinue all treatment and discharge the individual from the Adult System of Care.

If, during the course of treatment with the Adult System of Care, an individual elects to seek treatment from a non System of Care psychiatrist, a conference will be held with the individual to outline the dangers and problems of uncoordinated care. If the individual elects to continue treatment with a non System of Care psychiatrist the County will discontinue treatment (with a appropriate transition plan) and the individual will be terminated from all Adult System of Care services. Documentation of the conference and the individual's choice will be recorded in the individual's medical record.