



SALISH BHO

CLINICAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy Name: MEDICATION ONLY SERVICES –
PROHIBITED (MENTAL HEALTH)

Policy Number: 11.23

Reference: PHIP and State Contract; WAC 388-877-0712;
WAC 388-877-0700

Effective Date: 12/2014

Revision Date(s): 5/2016; 6/2018

Reviewed Date: 5/2016; 6/2017; 6/2018

Approved by: SBHO Executive Board

PURPOSE

This policy applies to adults currently enrolled in services with a SBHO mental health provider.

SBHO understands that some individuals currently receiving BHO services need ongoing medication support in order to prevent worsening of symptoms and deterioration in their level of functioning. However, SBHO does not authorize a “medication only” level of care. The BHO also recognizes that WAC prohibits the BHO system from providing medication only services. Those who only need medication support should be transitioned to a community prescriber that accepts the individual's Apple Health Medicaid outpatient coverage. SBHO realizes that there are some communities within the BHO where it is difficult to find a prescriber willing and able to treat individuals prescribed psychotropic medications. This policy is meant to address those concerns in light of current limitations on medication only services.

Note: Children should not be considered for medication only services. If a BHO provider has concerns about a specific case, they should contact the SBHO Children's Services Manager.

DEFINITIONS

Prescriber means a physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner individual who is licensed operating within a particular profession's statutorily authorized scope of practice who by law can prescribe drugs in Washington state.

Primary medical care provider (PMCP) means the medical care provider who is responsible for an individual's medical care.

PROCEDURE

The following factors relate to this policy:

- The WAC 388-877-0700 prohibition on medication only services within the BHO system.
- The need to strike a balance between the BHO system (those who meet access to care) and the Apple Health system (those who no longer meet access to care and therefore should be using private providers).
- The lack of private psychiatric prescribers or Primary Medical Care Providers (PMCP) willing to prescribe some psychotropic medications.
- The SBHO level of care guidelines, which suggest up to 24 hours of service per year for level one enrollees.
- The need for a consistent approach across the BHO.

The guidelines below should be applied when a mental health agency believes an individual's primary treatment need is prescriber services:

- The BHO does not authorize medication support only services as a starting point for treatment (i.e. assessment).
- Medication support cannot be the only intervention/modality listed on the individual service plan (ISP).
- There needs to be at least one face to face contact between each 3-month medication appointment as well as another type of monthly contact.
 - Additional to the minimal face to face contact requirement, there should be at least one other type of interaction with the client monthly. These other contacts could be by phone, if there is documented clinical content in the note.
- For these individuals (where medication support is the main treatment), there should be documentation that the individual's needs cannot be met in the community via another available resource (e.g. PMCP is not willing to prescribe).

- Individuals who are currently receiving primarily prescriber services may at times need a higher level of treatment, and changes in the level of treatment provided should be adjusted based on the individual's clinical needs.

MONITORING

1. This policy is a mandate by contract and statute. This policy will be monitored through use of SBHO:
 - Biannual Provider Chart Reviews
2. If a provider performs below expected standards during any of the reviews listed above a Corrective Action will be required for SBHO approval.