



**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
POLICY/PROCEDURE**

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<b>PSYCHIATRIST PEER REVIEW</b>	<b>400.01</b>	<b>09/12/2016</b>	<b>1 of 4</b>
APPROVED BY: <i>Robin Kay, Ph.D.</i> Acting Director	SUPERSEDES <b>202.32</b> <b>05/01/2007</b>	ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE <b>05/01/2007</b>	DISTRIBUTION LEVEL(S) <b>1</b>

**PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To establish an effective peer review process of the mental health services delivered to individuals by psychiatrists in Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH/Department) Directly-Operated Programs pursuant to California Business and Professions Code Section 805(a)(1) (Authority 1) and California Evidence Code Section 1157 (Authority 2).

**DEFINITION**

- 2.1 **Peer Review:** A formal evaluation process of a psychiatrist's practice by like psychiatrist, usually within the same geographic area, licensure, or mental health specialty.

**POLICY**

- 3.1 A Psychiatrist Peer Review process shall be established to monitor and improve quality of care.
- 3.2 A Clinical Executive Committee (CEC) is designated as the authority for the Psychiatrist Peer Review process.
  - 3.2.1 The CEC will be chaired by the LACDMH Medical Director and will include Regional Medical Directors (RMDs), Supervising Psychiatrists (SPs), and other parties as indicated.

**PROCEDURE**

- 4.1 Psychiatrist Peer Review Criteria
  - 4.1.1 The CEC will establish review criteria based upon, but not limited to, data and information from:



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- 4.1.1.1 New or revised Departmental clinical systems, policies and procedures, and practice parameters;
- 4.1.1.2 Information from the Pharmacy Bureau and the Department's information system;
- 4.1.1.3 Community standards of practice, published clinical practice guidelines, evidence-based practices; and
- 4.1.1.4 Information from adverse outcomes, Quality Improvement Division, Clinical Risk Management, Compliance, Privacy, and Audit Services Bureau, Patients' Rights Office, SP Committee, Program Support Bureau, Quality Assurance Division, and other persons or bodies.
- 4.1.2 Establishment of Criteria and Review Tools/Procedures
  - 4.1.2.1 The criteria are reviewed by other LACDMH bodies as requested by the CEC.
  - 4.1.2.2 The CEC regularly reviews and revises criteria to address new opportunities for improvement.
  - 4.1.2.3 The CEC approves the criteria, reviewing tools, sampling procedures, and timeframes for reporting.
- 4.2 Psychiatrist Peer Review Assignment, Analysis, and Reporting
  - 4.2.1 The RMDs may delegate these functions to the SPs or other designees:
    - 4.2.1.1 Select specific clinical records for review identified on the basis of the criteria and sampling procedures and assign like psychiatrists to review them; and
    - 4.2.1.2 Identified clinical records must be reviewed by a psychiatrist other than the original psychiatrist of record, using the approved review tool.



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4.2.1.3 Compile the results of the reviews for their area of responsibility along with the corrective actions, taken or proposed, and recommendations. Submit the results to the RMDs or Bureau MDs.

4.2.2 The RMDs will:

4.2.2.1 Analyze data from sources identified by the CEC and the findings, actions, and recommendations of the SPs, or designee, and prepare and submit a quarterly report to the CEC; and

4.2.2.2 Initiate, along with SPs or designee, the recommendations within its authority, such as referrals to the Credentialing Committee and/or practitioner-specific practice decisions.

4.2.3 The CEC:

4.2.3.1 Reviews Psychiatrist Peer Review reports and determines further corrective actions, changes, development of policy, or Continuing Education, referrals to Credentialing Committee or other actions as needed pursuant to California Business and Professions Code Section 805(a)(1). (Authority 1)

4.2.3.2 Presents a confidential de-identified Psychiatrist Peer Review summary to the Executive Management Team for input on proposed recommendations and for approval of resources needed to implement the recommendations.

4.2.3.3 Presents a confidential de-identified informational summary to the Quality Improvement Division for review, consultation and recommendations concerning findings that may have system-wide application.

4.2.3.4 Retains Psychiatrist Peer Review documents for four (4) years. All information and reports are privileged and confidential.



**LAC  
DMH**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
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**AUTHORITY**

1. California Business and Professions Code Section 805(a)(1)
2. California Evidence Code Section 1157

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY**

LACDMH Office of the Medical Director