

BEST PRACTICE CATALOG

Project Title: **PRIVILEGING DONE FOR PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE VACAVILLE PSYCHIATRIC PROGRAM**

Function Category: PATIENT-FOCUSED ORGANIZATION STRUCTURES

Subcategory: **Management of Human Resources** Heading: **Orienting, Training, and Educating Staff**

Key Word(s): **Privileging**

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Hospital: **Vacaville Psychiatric Program (VPP)**

Purpose: In order to assure that quality clinical social work services are provided, a privileging process for psychiatric social workers (PSWs) has been developed and implemented by a standing privileging committee. This process addresses professional competency to deliver evaluative, coordinating and treatment services to a forensic patient population. The process uses a peer review model to evaluate and render decisions on practitioners' applications to provide services within their scope of practice, as delineated in the Operations Manual Standards of Practice, and in conjunction with the Board of Behavioral Sciences licensing policies, State Personnel position classification, and Department of Mental Health and VPP missions.

Brief Description: The privileging process provides for granting privileging to practice in predefined areas of clinical social work practices. These are: general social work practice; individual therapy; group therapy; psychosocial assessment; clinical supervision; specialty area. All service members are required to apply for privileges in at least the general social work practice category, and are encouraged to apply for other areas which they qualify, and which are beneficial to patient care and treatment. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide evidence of competency in the practice areas to the privileging committee. Three levels of privileging are recognized: full, provisional, and limited. Individuals granted full privileges in a practice area may provide services in that area as well as supervise psychiatric social workers who have limited or provisional privileges in the area. Individuals having provisional privileges in an area may apply for full privileges using the experience gained and the recommendation of the individual providing clinical supervision in that area as evidence of acquired proficiency. This process assures that services within the scope of practice of clinical social work are provided or clinically supervised by qualified, competent clinicians. Currently, 90% of the psychiatric social work service has completed the privileging process.

Selection Basis/Criteria: The privileging process is part of the VPP's continuing effort to assure the provision of quality mental health services. It is in keeping with JCAHO emphasis on peer review models as discipline specific quality assurance, and it enhances the efficacy and the integrity of treatment service delivery in the VPP.

The following items are available regarding this Best Practice:

Photographs Video Tape Drawings Manual

Other : _____

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