

ASES GUIDELINES FOR CO-LOCATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER  
IN PMG SETTINGS

# Attachment 10

VERSION 10.1.18



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## ASES GUIDELINES FOR CO-LOCATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER IN PMG SETTINGS

In accordance with the provisions of the Puerto Rico Mental Health Code, Law No. 408 of October 2, 2000, as amended, and the Puerto Rico Patient's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, the Government Health Plan (GHP) is committed to promoting mental and physical health integration, in order to improve program effectiveness and quality of life for enrollees.

In developing the full integration of physical and behavioral health, ASES requires placement of a psychologist or other type of Behavioral Health Provider in each PMG setting. The Behavioral Health Provider shall be present and available to provide assessment, screening, consultation, and Behavioral Health Services to Enrollees. (Article 8.2.1). Through this model, physicians, behavioral health providers and other members of the health team, collaborate in the provision of an integrated care plan to patients. In this context, the communication between physicians and the behavioral health providers is one of the most important step to collaboration and integration.

Situations that may be address by the behavioral health person, in collaboration with the medical staff, may include, but are not limited to:

1. Patients with signs of depression or anxiety
2. Patients in the high cost/high needs program
3. Patients with chronic conditions
4. Patients who present problems with adherence to medical treatment
5. Patients with developmental, behavioral, or psychiatric conditions
6. Patients who confront stressful events such as losing a significant other, divorce, caregiving, or others
7. Patients with family, school or work related situational stressors
8. Identification and referral of patients with drugs, alcohol or smoking addictions.
9. Patients referred as high Emergency Room utilizers associated to behavioral health issues.
10. Patients seeking behavioral services at their own initiative
11. Education to patients, community or staff



The goal is to achieve better access to care and cost containment, while considering people's health as a whole. The GHP health care collaborative and integrated strategy for physical and behavioral services provides a mean to open communication channels to achieve better access and more focused and cost effective services.

The following guidelines are intended to clarify and adequately monitor compliance with the Co-Location requirements. These guidelines seek to ensure access to services and adequate communication between professionals.

**Required Co-Location of Staff per PMG Setting:** In view of the different kinds of PMG Settings and particularly, the different number of beneficiaries served, ASES has design the

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following table detailing the minimum required weekly hours of mental health professional availability according to the number of beneficiaries served by the PMG. Total Behavioral Health Provider hours will be determine by the number of PSG beneficiaries attached to the PMG regardless of the MCO selected by the beneficiary.

Covered Beneficiaries per PMG Setting	Minimum Behavioral Health Colocation weekly Hours Required
1,000 or less	4 hours
1,001 – 2,000	8 hrs.
2,001 – 3,000	12 hrs.
3,001 – 4,000	16 hrs.
4,001- 5,000	20 hrs.
5,001 – 6,000	24 hrs.
6,001 – 7,000	28 hrs.
7,001 – 8,000	32 hrs.
8,001 – 9,000	36 hrs.
9,001 – 10,000	40 hrs.



A corrective action plan (“CAP”) will be required of every PMG Setting that does not comply with the required co-location level. The PMG must present the CAP to the corresponding Entity within seven (7) calendar days from the receipt of the notice of the need for corrective action. The Entity will evaluate and approve or deny the CAP within seven (7) calendar days from the day such CAP is received. All PMGs with an approved CAP must comply with the terms of the CAP and achieve the required co-location within the timeframes established in the CAP.

Sanction Matrix. In the event that a PMG does not comply with the required co-location levels in any of its PMG settings, the PMG may be subject to penalties according to the following matrix:

Sanction Level	Sanction Type	Timeframe to cure	Comments
0	Notice of Non Compliance with Colocation Level	30 days Day 1-30	A Corrective Action Plan is required
1	New members subscription Hold	30 days Day 31-60	
2	PM/PM payment withhold and new member subscription	30 days Day 61-90	A Standard \$1.50 PM/PM payment withhold
3	Fine	15 days Day 91-105	Fines to be defined in accordance to contract
4	PMG Contract Cancellation	Day 106	

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