



Screening & Transition of Care Tools

Technical Assistance Webinar

January 19, 2023

Housekeeping



Participants are in listen only mode.



Please submit questions via the Q&A function.



Live closed captioning is available. Please find the link in the Chat.



The webinar slides will be posted to the DHCS CalAIM webpage soon.

Welcome & Introductions

- » **Jesse Raynak**, Behavioral Health Division, California Department of Health Care Services
- » **Feather Gaither**, Behavioral Health Division, California Department of Health Care Services

Agenda

- » Background & Overview
- » Review of Final Guidance & Tools
- » Next Steps
- » Questions & Answers



Background

- » Previously, multiple mental health screening and transition tools were in use for Medi-Cal beneficiaries across the state, which can lead to inconsistencies around when and how beneficiaries are referred to county networks and managed care plan networks.
- » To streamline this process and improve patient care, DHCS developed standardized Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services; implementation began on January 1, 2023.

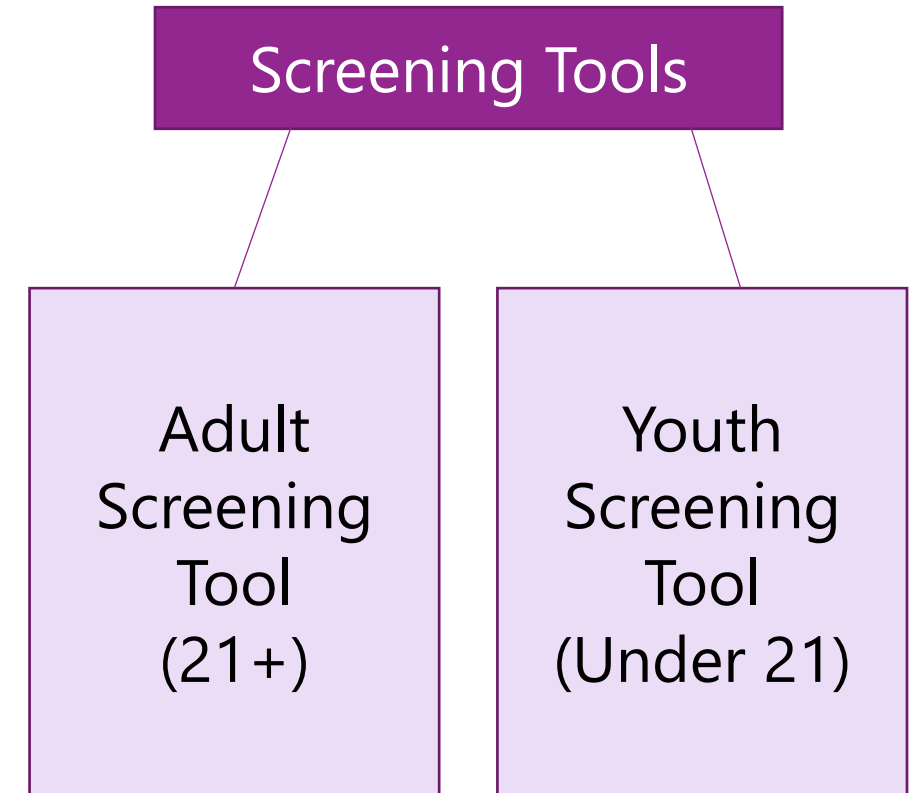
Development Process

The development process for the Screening and Transition of Care Tools involved robust testing and stakeholder input, including:

- » **Working groups** to inform tool development and process
- » **Beta testing** to refine tools before piloting on a larger scale
- » **Pilot testing** to ensure statewide applicability
- » **Field testing** to identify critical issues following updates
- » **Public comment** periods to solicit additional feedback

Adult and Youth Screening Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services

- » The Adult and Youth Screening Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services determine the appropriate delivery system for beneficiaries who are not currently receiving mental health services when they contact the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan (MCP) or county Mental Health Plan (MHP) seeking mental health services.
 - » Distinct Screening Tools have been developed for Adults ages 21 and over and Youth under age 21.
 - » The Screening Tools are required for use by MCPs and MHPs.



Adult and Youth Screening Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services

| The Screening Tools <u>DO</u> : | The Screening Tools <u>DO NOT</u> : |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do determine the appropriate mental health delivery system referral for clinical assessment.✓ Do identify initial indicators of an individual's mental health needs.✓ Do have to be used by MCPs and MHPs when individuals contact them seeking mental health services.✓ Do have to be used with individuals that are not currently receiving mental health services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">X Do not constitute or replace clinical assessments.X Do not identify all aspects of an individual's mental health needs or determine diagnoses and necessary services.X Do not have to be used by providers.X Do not have to be used when individuals contact MCPs or MHPs for purposes other than to seek mental health services.X Do not have to be used with individuals who are currently receiving mental health services. |

Transition of Care Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services (Adult and Youth)

- » The Transition of Care Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services supports timely and coordinated care for individuals already receiving mental health services. This tool is used when completing a transition of services to the other delivery system (i.e., MCP to MHP or MHP to MCP) or adding a service from the other delivery system.
 - » A single Transition of Care Tool has been developed for all beneficiaries, including Adults and Youth.
 - » The Transition of Care Tool is required for use by MCPs and MHPs.

Transition of Care Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services (Adult and Youth)

The Transition of Care Tool DOES:

- ✓ Does support referrals when transitioning care to or adding a service from the other mental health delivery system.
- ✓ Does support standardized sharing of existing clinical information.
- ✓ Does have to be used by MCPs and MHPs. MCPs and MHPs may also choose to require use by providers.

The Transition of Care Tool DOES NOT:

- X Does not need to be used for referrals within the same delivery system or for services other than mental health services.
- X Does not constitute or replace clinical assessments.
- X Does not determine whether an individual needs to transition (determination must be made by clinician).

Final Guidance

- » In late December, DHCS released [APL 22-028](#) to MCPs and [BHIN 22-065](#) to MHPs to provide aligned guidance on Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services.
- » Final guidance:
 - » Provides an overview of each tool;
 - » Outlines when, how, and by whom the tools are required for use; and
 - » Includes a link to the [***Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services webpage***](#), which provides the Adult Screening Tool, Youth Screening Tool, and Transition of Care Tool (Adult and Youth).

Key Updates to Guidance

Final guidance includes several updates in response to stakeholder feedback received through public comment, most notably:

- » **Who can respond to a screening on behalf of a youth.** Guidance has been modified to defer to MCPs' and MHPs' policies on who can respond on behalf of children and youth.
- » **Parameters for referrals directly to providers following a screening.** Guidance has been modified to clarify that MCPs and MHPs may only refer directly to providers in the other delivery system if P&Ps have been established and MOUs are in place with the MCP and MHP to ensure a timely clinical assessment with an appropriate in-network provider is made available to the individual.

Key Updates to Guidance

Final guidance includes several updates in response to stakeholder feedback received through public comment, most notably:

- » **Referral coordination requirements.** Guidance has been updated to require that referral coordination include follow up to ensure a clinical assessment has been “made available to the individual” as opposed to “offered and rendered.”
- » **Tool translation.** Guidance has been updated to clarify that if DHCS has provided translated versions of the tools, MCPs and MHPs may only deviate from the wording in those translated versions if they, or an entity on their behalf, have facilitated additional testing of translations in the local community that indicates the need for associated shifts in language to meet beneficiary needs.

Adult & Youth Screening Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services

- » Review of Adult Screening Tool
- » Review of Youth Screening Tool
- » Review of Notable Requirements & FAQs

Adult and Youth Screening Tools: Contents



Instructions



Screening
Questions



Scoring

Adult Screening Tool: Instructions

1. Each scored question is a "Yes" or "No" question. Not every question is scored.
2. Each scored question has a defined number of points for the selected answer. The number of points for each question cannot be more or less than what is on the scoresheet.
3. Select/mark the number in the "Yes" or "No" column based on the response provided.
4. If the individual is unable or chooses not to answer a question, skip the question and score it as "0."

Adult Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

5. If the individual responds “Yes” to question 11, the screener must immediately offer and coordinate a referral to a clinician for further evaluation of suicidality after the screening is completed. Referral coordination should include sharing the completed Adult Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services. The referral and subsequent clinical evaluation may or may not impact the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score.
6. A response of “Yes” to question 13 or 14 does not impact the screening score. If the individual responds “Yes” to question 13 or question 14, the screener must offer and coordinate a referral to the county behavioral health plan for substance use disorder assessment in addition to the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score. The individual may decline this referral without impact to the mental health delivery system referral.

Adult Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

7. Once responses to questions have been documented, the selected/marked numbers in the “Yes” column should be added together and that total number should be entered in the “Total Score” box.
 - a. Individuals with a total score of 0 – 5 must be referred to the MCP for a clinical assessment.
 - b. Individuals with a total score of 6 and above must be referred to the MHP for a clinical assessment.

Adult Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

8. Once a score has been generated, a referral must be coordinated.
 - a. If the individual's score requires referral within the same delivery system, a timely clinical assessment must be offered and provided.
 - b. If the individual's score requires referral to the other mental health delivery system (i.e., MCP to MHP or MHP to MCP), the referral must be coordinated with the other delivery system, including sharing the completed Adult Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services and following up to ensure a timely clinical assessment has been made available to the individual.

Adult Screening Tool: Questions

» The Adult Screening Tool includes 14 screening questions that are intended to elicit information about the following:



Safety



Life Circumstances



Clinical Experiences



Risk

Youth Screening Tool: Instructions

1. There are two versions of the Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services:
 - **Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services: *Youth Respondent*** is used when a youth is responding on their own behalf.
 - **Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services: *Respondent on Behalf of Youth*** is used when a person is responding on behalf of the youth.
2. The answer to screening question 2 determines which version of the tool is used.

Youth Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

3. Each scored question is a "Yes" or "No" question. Not every question is scored.
4. Each scored question has a defined number of points for the selected answer. The number of points for each question cannot be more or less than what is on the scoresheet.
5. Select/mark the number in the "Yes" or "No" column based on the response provided.
6. If the youth, or the person responding on their behalf, is unable or chooses not to answer a question, skip the question and score it as "0."

Youth Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

7. If a response to question 5 indicates that a child who is age 3 or younger has not seen a pediatrician in the last 6 months, or that a child/youth age 4 or older has not seen a pediatrician or primary care physician (PCP) in the last year, the screener must offer to connect them to their MCP for a pediatrician/ PCP visit in addition to the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score.

Youth Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

8. If the youth, or the person responding on their behalf, responds “Yes” to question 6, 7, or 9, they meet criteria for specialty mental health services per [BHIN 21-073](#). In these cases, the screening is not required, and the screener must offer and coordinate a referral for clinical assessment by the MHP. Referral coordination must include follow up to ensure an assessment has been made available to the individual. Please reference [BHIN 21-073](#) for additional detail on specialty mental health services criteria and definitions of key terminology.

Youth Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

9. If the youth, or the person responding on their behalf, responds “Yes” to question 19, 20, or 21, the screener must immediately offer and coordinate a referral to a clinician for further evaluation of suicidality and/or homicidality after the screening is completed. Referral coordination should include sharing the completed Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services. The referral and subsequent clinical evaluation may or may not impact the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score.

Youth Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

10. A response of “Yes” to question 17 does not impact the screening score. If the youth, or the person responding on their behalf, responds “Yes” to question 17, the screener must offer and coordinate a referral to the county behavioral health plan for substance use disorder assessment in addition to the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score. The individual may decline this referral without impact to the mental health delivery system referral.

Youth Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

11. Once responses to all questions have been documented, the selected/marked numbers in the “Yes” column should be added together and that total number should be entered in the “Total Score” box.
 - a. Individuals with a total score of 0 – 5 must be referred to the MCP for a clinical assessment.
 - b. Individuals with a total score of 6 and above must be referred to the MHP for a clinical assessment.

Youth Screening Tool: Instructions (continued)

12. Once a score has been generated, a referral must be coordinated.
 - a. If the individual's score requires referral within the same delivery system, a timely clinical assessment must be offered and provided.
 - b. If the individual's score requires referral to the other mental health delivery system (i.e., MCP to MHP or MHP to MCP), the referral must be coordinated with the other delivery system, including sharing the completed Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services and following up to ensure a timely clinical assessment has been made available to the individual.

Youth Screening Tool: Questions

» The Youth Screening Tool includes 23 screening questions that are intended to elicit information about the following:



Safety



Life Circumstances



System Involvement



Risk

Adult and Youth Screening Tools: Scoring

- » Each scored question in the Adult and Youth Screening Tools has a defined number of points for the selected answer.
- » The total score determines the Medi-Cal mental health delivery system the individual should be referred to for assessment.
 - » Individuals must be referred to the appropriate Medi-Cal mental health delivery system based on their score.
 - » Screening Tool administrators cannot override the score and make their own determination for referral.

Screening Tools: Notable Requirements

- ✓ The Screening Tools are required for use with individuals who are not currently receiving mental health services.
- ✗ The Screening Tools are not required for use with beneficiaries who are currently receiving mental health services.
- ✓ The Screening Tools are required for use when individuals contact the MCP or MHP seeking mental health services.
- ✗ The Screening Tools are not required for use when individuals contact providers directly seeking mental health services.
- ✓ The Screening Tools can be administered by clinicians or non-clinician and in a variety of ways (e.g., by phone or in person) or formats (e.g., PDF or EHR).
- ✗ The specific order and wording of questions in the Screening Tools cannot be altered.

Screening Tools: Notable Requirements

- ✓ After administration of the Screening Tools, individuals must be referred to the appropriate Medi-Cal mental health delivery system based on their score.
 - ✓ Once an individual is referred to the MCP or MHP they must receive a timely clinical assessment and medically necessary services.
 - ✓ MCPs and MHPs must coordinate to facilitate referrals.
-

Screening Tools: Common FAQs

| Question | Yes/No |
|--|--------|
| Are Screening Tools different from clinical assessments? | Yes |
| Can the wording and order of screening questions be changed? | No |
| Can questions be added to the Screening Tools? | No |
| Can MCPs and MHPs require providers to use the Screening Tools? | No |
| Are screeners required to complete a referral to the delivery system indicated by the screening score? | Yes |
| Are the Screening Tools and the Transition of Care Tool intended to be used together? | No |
| Will DHCS be providing translated versions of the Screening Tools? | Yes |

Transition of Care Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services

- » Review of Transition of Care Tool
- » Review of Notable Requirements & FAQs

Transition of Care Tool: Contents

Instructions

Referring plan
and care team

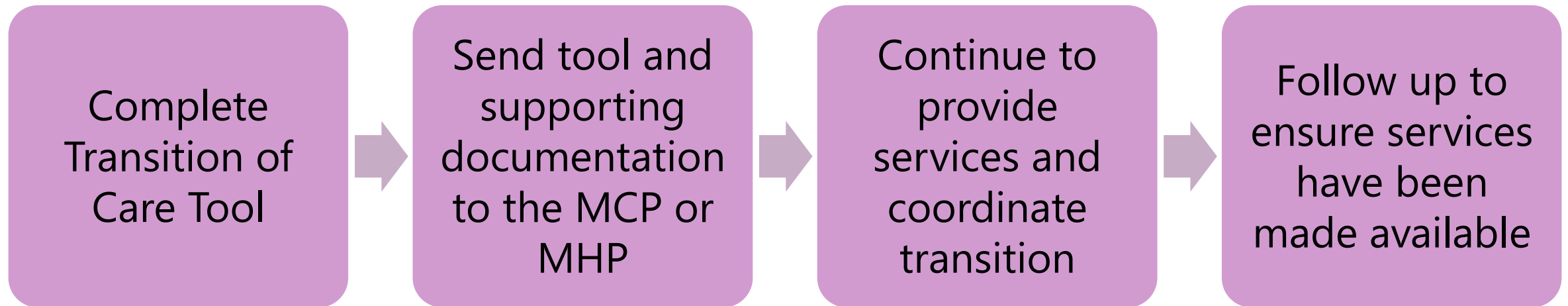
Beneficiary
demographics
and contact
information

Beneficiary
health
information

Services
requested and
destination
plan
information

Transition of Care Tool: Instructions

The determination to transition services to and/or add services from the other mental health delivery system must be made by a clinician in alignment with protocols. Once a clinician has made the determination to transition care or refer for services, all of the following actions must be taken:



Transition of Care Tool: Notable Requirements

- ✓ The Transition of Care Tool is required for use when an individual needs their care transitioned to or services added from the other mental health delivery system.
 - ✗ The Transition of Care Tool is not required for use when referring an individual for services within the same delivery system.
 - ✓ The determination to transition and/or add services must be made by a clinician.
 - ✓ Once a determination is made, the Transition of Care Tool can be completed by clinicians or non-clinicians and in a variety of formats (e.g., PDF or EHR).
 - ✗ The specific order and wording of fields in the Transition of Care Tool cannot be altered.
-

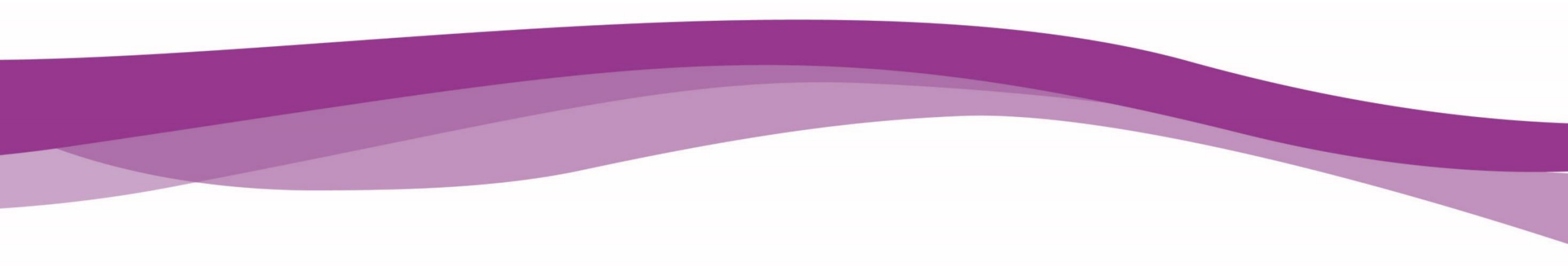
Transition of Care Tool: Notable Requirements

-
- ✓ After the Transition of Care Tool is completed, the individual must be referred to their MCP or MHP.
 - ✓ MCPs and MHPs must coordinate to facilitate transitions of care and addition of services from the other delivery system to ensure the referral process has been completed.

Transition of Care Tool: Common FAQs

| Question | Yes/No |
|---|--------|
| Is the Transition of Care Tool different from a clinical assessment? | Yes |
| Is the Transition of Care Tool intended to be used following a Screening? | No |
| Can additional fields be added to the Transition of Care Tool? | No |
| Can additional information be provided as attachments to the Transition of Care Tool? | Yes |
| Can MCPs and MHPs require providers to use the Transition of Care Tool? | Yes |
| Is there a scoring methodology for the Transition of Care Tool? | No |

Next Steps

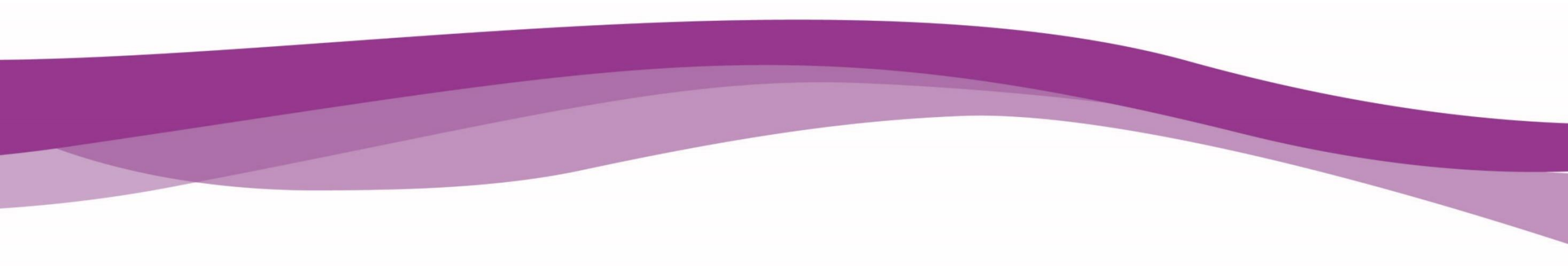


Next Steps

- » Additional Technical Assistance
 - » February & March TA Webinars
 - » Address stakeholder questions
 - » Share promising practices
 - » Provide updates on post-implementation activities
 - » FAQs will be released soon
- » MHP P&Ps due March 1
- » MCP P&Ps due March 15



Q&A



Questions?

» If you have additional questions, please e-mail DHCS at:

BHCalAIM@dhcs.ca.gov

and/or

MCQMD@dhcs.ca.gov

» Subject Line "Screening and Transition of Care Tools"

The background features a purple-tinted image of a stethoscope on a desk. Overlaid on this is a white line graph with a grid. The y-axis on the left is labeled with numbers 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15. The graph shows a fluctuating line with several peaks and troughs. The text 'Thank You' is centered in white, bold font.

Thank You