



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
Aging and Disability Services  
Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration  
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery  
P.O. Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330

June 27, 2014

Licensed Behavioral Health Agencies

To Whom It May Concern:

**SUBJECT: NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RULES AND DSM-5 EXEMPTION**

The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) is issuing your agency an exemption to sections of chapter 388-877A Washington Administrative Code (WAC), chapter 388-877B WAC, and chapter 388-877C WAC, which require agencies to begin using the fifth edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) effective September 1, 2013.

During the process of implementing new behavioral health administrative rules, DBHR determined the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued guidance allowing providers to use DSM-IV as well as DSM-5 over the next year. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) will begin the transition from the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Edition, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) to the ICD-10-CM, which will now be required on October 1, 2015. In order to support the transition to new behavioral health rules while coordinating changes for billing requirements for agencies, DBHR is granting this exemption specific to sections:

- WAC 388-877A-0130
- WAC 388-877B-0230, 0330, 0430, 0440, 0530
- WAC 388-877C-0100 and 0130

The exemption is effective September 1, 2014, and will continue to be in effect until October 1, 2015. This exemption is granted under the authority of WAC 388-877-0300(4).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this exemption, please contact Dennis Malmer, Office Chief, Certification, Licensing, and Customer Relations, at 360-725-3747 or via email at [dennis.malmer@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:dennis.malmer@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Imhoff".

Chris Imhoff, LICSW  
Director

cc: Dennis Malmer