

# Talking to Clients About the ASCMI Form

## A DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR PROVIDERS

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CaIMHSA has developed this guide to assist providers in conversations with clients about the ASCMI Form. It can be adapted as needed for your setting and the person you are speaking with.

*Please note: These discussion points do not replace legal requirements, clinical judgment, or agency policy. Providers are responsible for complying with applicable confidentiality laws and their agency's policies.*

### What It Is

- The ASCMI Form is a standardized consent form that lets you decide whether we can share certain health and social services information with other providers who help support your care.
- It's designed to make California's health and social service systems more connected by allowing your care team to communicate more easily, but only with your permission.

### Why You're Asked to Sign It

- You're being given this form because sharing information (when you choose to allow it) helps us to coordinate your care more effectively. It reduces delays, repeated questions, and multiple separate forms.
- This form is part of a statewide effort to simplify the way information is shared so providers can work together more smoothly.

### What's Allowed When You Sign the Form

- If you choose to sign, it allows us to securely share specific information (such as mental health details, substance use treatment information, physical health information, or social needs) with other care partners involved in your support.
- The form clearly outlines what types of information can be shared, and which types require your explicit permission.

## How ASCMI Helps You

- It reduces the number of times you have to repeat your personal history or complete new paperwork when you work with different providers.
- It can speed up referrals for services such as housing, case management, specialty care, or mental health support.
- It helps ensure that your entire care team has the information needed to provide coordinated, person-centered care.

## What Information Types Are Covered

- The ASCMI Form covers a broad range of information, including medical history, mental health treatment information, substance use treatment information, housing or social service needs, and other relevant details.
- It reduces the need for multiple separate release forms for different programs, providers, or systems.

## Client Control and Consent

- Signing is your choice, and you can still receive services if you don't sign. We would need your written permission to bill for your services, though, or to share your SUD treatment information.
- You stay in control. You can choose exactly what types of information can be shared and with whom
- "If you change your mind later, you can modify or revoke your consent at any time.

## How Your Privacy Is Protected

- The form was created to follow all applicable state and federal privacy laws. It only allows information to be shared according to the rules and permissions that apply.
- It's written in clear language so you can easily understand what you're agreeing to.

## How ASCMI Works "Behind the Scenes"

- California is building a secure electronic system to store your consent choices, so your approved providers can quickly check what you have authorized without repeatedly asking you to fill out forms.
- Although the form was initially developed for Medi-Cal members, the long-term goal is for all Californians to benefit from this coordinated approach.