
MEMORANDUM

To: DCF Funded Providers Using the GAIN-Q3
From: Melissa Sienna, DCF GAIN Projects Lead
Date: March 22, 2020

Re: GAIN Protocols During COVID-19

****This communication originally was sent as an email.****

Dear Providers,

First and most importantly, I hope this email finds you and your family safe and well during the COVID-19 outbreak. The safety of provider staffs and the clients they serve are of the highest importance during this public health crisis.

As you are aware, effective 3/18/2020 DCF Commissioner Dorantes suspended all in-person services due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Referrals and services are to continue using telemedicine/telehealth protocols. Undoubtedly, this change impacts the qualitative nature of your contact with clients during these uncertain times. In support of providers successful conversion to telemedicine practices during the outbreak, DCF Substance Use and Intimate Partner Violence unit is taking the following measures **effective Monday, 3/23/2020**:

Until further notice or in-person client contacts resume, programs using the GAIN-Q3 as required by their DCF contract will use the GAIN Short Screener (GAIN-SS BH 3.0.1) tool instead. The GAIN-SS is a screening tool that takes 3-5 minutes to administer and can easily be done over the telephone or via video conference. It provides severity scores related to the client's self-reported substance use and mental health problems. Note that this is the same tool required for use by SAFE Family Recovery providers. If your agency has a SAFE-FR team you may have seen this tool in your GAIN ABS accounts already.

To help with this temporary practice change, note the following:

- Questions about this change
 - Questions about GAIN ABS, the tool, or training should be directed to Francesca McKean @ gaininfo@chestnut.org
 - Questions about GAIN contract compliance should be directed to your DCF Program Lead, with a copy to melissa.sienna@ct.gov.
- Training on the GAIN-SS BH 3.0.1
 - Staff already trained to administer the GAIN-Q3 do not need any additional training. They can begin using the GAIN-SS BH 3.0.1 tool immediately.
 - Staff not already trained will receive GAIN-SS training online here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/GAIN/pdf/InstructionsGAINShortScreenerTrainingpdf.pdf?la=en>. This

online training may use a different version of the GAIN-SS, but the approach to asking the questions is identical. Instructions for navigating the course are attached.

- How to get the GAIN-SS BH 3.0.1 tools
 - The GAIN-SS BH 3.0.1 tools already are loaded into your GAIN ABS agency and staff accounts. You can immediately do interactive GAIN-SS interviews.
 - Paper copies are available here:
 - GAIN-SS English: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/GAIN/pdf/GAINSS-BH-301-v122718.pdf?la=en>
 - GAIN-SS Spanish: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/GAIN/pdf/VGNICBSC301-v122818.pdf?la=en>
 - These tools also are available on the DCF GAIN website <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/GAIN/GAIN-SS> under "*GAIN-SS Instruments for SAFE Family Recovery*".
- Protocols for conducting GAIN-SS BH 3.0.1 interviews
 - Programs will conduct the GAIN-SS BH 3.0.1 according to the protocol for GAIN-Q3 administration detailed in your contract (e.g., within 30 days of intake, discharge, etc.)
 - GAIN ABS will let you complete a GAIN-SS at followup if the GAIN-Q3 already was conducted at the intake

Thanks in advance, and be well.

Melissa