



<p style="text-align: center;">Alameda County <small>ac</small>  <small>bh</small> Behavioral Health Care Services <small>MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES</small></p>	<p>DocuSigned by: By:  Karyn L. Tribble, PsyD, LCSW, Director <small>BA107CA0C0D444A...</small></p>
<p>POLICY TITLE</p> <p>Expanding Access to Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)</p>	<p>Policy No: 150-1-4</p> <p>Date of Original Approval: 8/26/2022</p> <p>Date(s) of Revision(s):</p>

PURPOSE

This policy addresses the need to ensure Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBH) complies with California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) requirement to expand access to Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) by requiring providers offer MAT directly or have effective and appropriate referral mechanisms to MAT for beneficiaries with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) diagnoses.

AUTHORITY

- Alameda County Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Contract
- California Department of Health Care Services Contract (DHCS): Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) No: 21-021, 21-024 and, 21-075
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 42, § 8.12
- Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), 21 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) 355, § 505
- Public Health Service Act (PHSA), 42 U.S.C. 262, § 351
- Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act)

SCOPE

All ACBH county-operated programs and entities and individuals providing DMC-ODS services under a contract or subcontract with ACBH.

POLICY

DMC-ODS Counties shall require that all DMC-ODS providers, at all levels of care, demonstrate that they either directly offer or have effective referral mechanisms to MAT services for beneficiaries with SUD diagnoses that are treatable through usages of Food and Drug administration (FDA)-approved medications and biological products.

PROCEDURE

- I. MAT may be provided in clinical or non-clinical setting and can be delivered as a standalone service or as a part of a level of care. MAT may include the following service components:

- Assessment
 - Care Coordination
 - Counseling (individual and group)
 - Family Therapy
 - Medication Services
 - Patient Education
 - Recovery Services
 - SUD Crisis Intervention Services
 - Withdrawal Management Services
- II. An appropriate referral to any Medi-Cal provider rendering MAT to the beneficiary is compliant regardless if they seek reimbursement through DMC-ODS. Drug Medi-Cal (DMC)-certified providers in DMC-ODS programs will be reimbursed for the ordering, prescribing, administering, and monitoring of all FDA-approved medications and FDA-licensed biologicals utilized for treating SUDs, including long-acting injectable naltrexone and long-acting injectable buprenorphine.
- III. Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP) are required to directly offer MAT to beneficiaries with SUD diagnoses that are treatable with FDA-approved medications and biological products, including methadone, buprenorphine (transmucosal and long-acting injectable), naltrexone (oral and long-acting injectable), naloxone, and disulfiram. Prescribed medications will be provided to the extent they can be readily purchased by the NTP. When an NTP provides beneficiaries with medication, the medication cost will be reimbursed at a bundled NTP rate.
- IV. DMC-certified providers shall offer counseling or behavioral therapy to MAT beneficiaries in addition to the MAT medications. However, a DMC-certified provider shall provide beneficiaries with MAT medication regardless of whether or not the beneficiary opts to receive the counseling or behavioral therapy services.
- V. MAT delivered at Alternative Sites (referred to as Additional MAT) is an optional service in DMC-ODS which includes the cost of providers ordering and purchasing FDA-approved medications and biologicals used to treat SUDs outside the Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit and administering them to beneficiaries in alternative settings, such as criminal justice settings or street-based outreach. Beneficiaries who are provided medications through this optional service must also receive counseling or other behavioral therapy.
- VI. Outside of the required DMC-ODS MAT benefit and the MAT delivered at Alternative Sites benefit, all medications and biological products utilized to treat SUDs, including long-acting injectables, continue to be available through the Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit without prior authorization and can be delivered to provider offices through pharmacies.

- VII. These changes are effective as of January 1, 2022.
- VIII. ACBH shall include language in the contract stating this requirement.
- IX. ACBH shall require providers to submit policy and procedure that shows MAT services are provided and/or effective referral mechanisms are in place.

NON-COMPLIANCE

As a general contract provision:

- 1. Contractors not in compliance with contract provisions, or State or Federal law and/or regulation shall be immediately responsible for remedy.
- 2. ACBH may, at its discretion, issue a Corrective Action Plan or Contract Compliance Plan.
- 3. The cost to implement the Corrective Action Plan or Contract Compliance Plan shall be borne by the Contractor.

Failure to address identified issues may result in further action by ACBH up to and including program termination, as specified in the ACBH Contract Compliance and Sanctions for ACBH Contracted Providers Policy, and/or future debarment by Alameda County, as specified in any then current debarment policy (see Alameda County General Services Agency Debarment Policy approved on January 14, 2020).

CONTACT

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DISTRIBUTION

This policy will be distributed to the following:

- ACBH Staff
- ACBH Contract Providers
- Public

ISSUANCE AND REVISION HISTORY

Original Authors: Ricca Espiridion, Assistant Director SUD Continuum of Care

Original Date of Approval: 8/26/2022 by Karyn L. Tribble, PsyD, LCSW, Behavioral Health Director

Revision Author	Reason for Revision	Date of Approval by (Name, Title)

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)	The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration defines Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) as the use of medications, in combination with counseling or behavioral therapies to provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders (SUDs).
Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP)	NTPs provide opioid medication assisted treatment to those persons addicted to opiates. NTPs also provide detoxification and/or maintenance treatment services which include medical evaluations and rehabilitative services to help the patient become and/or remain productive members of society.

APPENDICES

NONE