


- MEMORANDUM -

DATE: October 4, 2022
TO: Alameda County Behavioral Health Substance Use Community-Based Organizations
FROM: Clyde H. Lewis Jr., Ed.D, Substance Use Continuum of Care Director
Cecilia Serrano, Finance Director 
SUBJECT: **Non-County Resident Policy Effective November 1, 2022 (Substance Use Continuum of Care Services)**

In 2018, Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) implemented Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Organized Delivery System (ODS) through contracted substance use community-based organizations (CBO) service providers. During this period, ACBH introduced a pilot that allowed up to ninety (90) days of treatment for beneficiaries with an Alameda County address and another county's Medi-Cal. However, according to DMC-ODS eligibility criteria, referrals for service are now required to be sent to the Medi-Cal county of responsibility. While this pilot met community needs, service referrals for out-of-county beneficiaries outpaced available resources.

Effective November 1, 2022, all substance use beneficiaries will require Alameda County Medi-Cal for referral to ACBH programs. Upon intake, partnering CBO will verify Medi-Cal eligibility for each beneficiary. In instances where the beneficiary has Medi-Cal coverage with a responsible county other than Alameda, prior to opening the episode for service, the CBO shall refer the beneficiary to services in their respective county of coverage.

Out of County Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Providers:

- Alameda County beneficiaries opened out of county must show proof of Alameda County residency (must be valid and current) prior to receiving services.
- If beneficiaries are no longer an Alameda County resident (i.e., is not able to demonstrate proof of eligibility), no services can be billed to Alameda County without explicit written permission from ACBH Substance Use Disorder (SUD) leadership.
- Requests for admission exceptions require that the CBO email the ACBH Substance Use Operational Specialist and include the beneficiary's county of residence and justification for the exception.
- Beneficiaries who are granted exception will be granted 60-90 days of treatment to allow for the transitioning of their Medi-Cal coverage to Alameda County.

Inside Alameda County OTP Providers:

- For beneficiaries that do not have Alameda County Medi-Cal, CBO is required to conduct monthly address verifications to ensure the beneficiary continues to reside in Alameda County.
- Instances where an agency verifies Medi-Cal eligibility and the subscriber county is anything other than Alameda County, the beneficiary is considered to have out-of-county Medi-Cal.
- If a beneficiary has moved, please work to update their file.
- If the beneficiary is currently receiving Medi-Cal they must notify their Alameda County Social Services Eligibility Technician/Worker with their updated address immediately.





- If a beneficiary has Alameda County Medi-Cal and their address is out of county, they have 60-90 days to switch their Medi-Cal county to their home county, and they will be eligible for treatment in Alameda County for 60-90 days while transitioning their Medi-Cal county of residence information.
- If a beneficiary moved to Alameda County and has Medi-Cal coverage in another county, the OTP provider must assist them with transferring their Medi-Cal to Alameda County.
- Beneficiaries are allowed up to thirty (30) days of courtesy dosing.

Medi-Cal policy states recipients must contact their Medi-Cal Social Services Case Worker within ten (10) days to report any change of address and they must request an Inter-County Transfer (ICT). It is imperative that changes of address are reported promptly as it could impact CBO payments/reimbursements.

OTPs may provide replacement narcotic therapy to visiting beneficiaries approved to receive services on a temporary basis (less than 30 days) in accordance with Title 9, Section 10295.

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned Substance Use Operational Specialist in the ACBH Substance Use Continuum of Care.

