



Assessment of Modalities of Services

Description of Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)

Levels of Care

By: Bill Manov, Ph.D.

- a. **Level 0.5 Early Intervention Services**- Professional service for the prevention and early intervention of substance use disorders. Funded through Medi-Cal fee for service system (not Drug Medi-Cal)
 - i. Facility requirements – not described
 - ii. Staffing and training – Physicians and counselors
 - iii. Service characteristics – Primary Care physicians screen adults ages 18 years or older for alcohol misuse; persons engaged in risky or hazardous drinking receive brief behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse and/or referral to mental health and/or alcohol use disorder services, as medically necessary; Managed Care Plans and fee-for-service primary care providers will make referrals from Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to the county for treatment through the DMC-ODS.
 - iv. Units of Service: Annual screen, up to 4 brief interventions

- b. **Level 1 Outpatient Services**- Level 1 services are not only an entry point into substance use disorder treatment (SUD) services, they are an alternative to entering the treatment continuum at an inappropriately more intensive level of service.
 - i. Facility requirements: Office practice or health clinic which meets state certification criteria
 - ii. Staffing: Professional staff, Certified AOD (Alcohol and Other Drug) Counselors and/or Licensed Mental Health clinicians
 - iii. Service Characteristics: Individual and group counseling applying at least two Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs); supported by medical, psychological, laboratory, and toxicology services. Less than 9 hours of service/week (adults) or 6 hours/week (adolescents) with ability to transfer to more intense level(s) of care.
 - iv. Units of Service: Counseling, 15 minute increments

- c. **Level 2 Intensive Outpatient/Partial Hospitalization Services**- Level 2 program are offered as Intensive Outpatient (Level 2.1) and Partial Hospitalization (Level 2.5) services, each designed to have the capacity to

treat patients who have more complex co-occurring mental and substance-related conditions.

c.1- Level 2.1 Intensive Outpatient (REQUIRED)

- i. Facility Requirement: Health clinics (substance abuse, mental health, or primary care) which meet state licensure or certification criteria
- ii. Staffing: Interdisciplinary team of professional staff performing within scope of practice, Registered/Certified AOD counselors, licensed Mental Health Clinicians
- iii. Service Characteristics: Individual and group counseling applying at least two EBPs; supported by medical and psychological consultation available 24 hours/day, laboratory and toxicology services as needed. 9 hours or more of service/week (adults, generally 9-19 hours/week) or 6 hours/week (adolescents, generally 6-19 hours/week) with ability to directly transfer and coordinate care to a more intense level(s) of care.
- iv. Units of Service: 15-minute increment

c.2- Level 2.5 Partial Hospitalization (OPTIONAL)

- i. Facility Requirement: Health clinics (substance abuse, mental health, or primary care) which meet state licensure or certification criteria
- ii. Staffing: Professional Interdisciplinary team; Registered/Certified AOD counselors, licensed Mental Health Clinicians, and licensed Medi-Cal practitioner(s) to include a physician with prescribing authority.
- iii. Service Characteristics: Individual and group counseling applying at least two EBPs; Medication management with direct access to medical and psychological consultation, laboratory and toxicology services. Services provided 20 or more hours per service week with ability to directly transfer and coordinate care to a more intense level(s) of care.
Units of Service: DRG/CPE (Diagnostic Related Group/Charge per Episode)

- d. **Levels 3 and 4 Residential/Inpatient Services**- Level 3 programs offer organized, planned, and structured SUD treatment/recovery services that are provided in a 24-hour residential care setting. Patients are domiciled in or affiliated with permanent facilities where they can reside safely in an alcohol free environment. All Level 3 program serve individuals who, because of specific functional limitations, need a safe and stable living environment and 24-hour care. The differences between the Level 3 levels of care (3.1 – 3.7) are services required to address the functional limitations of the patients. One level of ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine) Residential Treatment (3.1-3.5) and a plan for coordination of Levels 3.7-4.0 is REQUIRED in the Implementation Plan; by Year 3, ASAM Residential Levels 3.1-3.5 must be provided.

d.1- Level 3.1 Clinically Managed, Low-Intensity Residential Services (Satisfies Initial; REQUIRED by year 3)

- i. Facility Requirement: Freestanding or integrated, appropriately licensed residential facility with 24-hour supervision
- ii. Staffing: Registered/Certified AOD counselors and/or Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Arts (LPHAs)
- iii. Service Characteristics: Planned clinical program activities (at least 5 hours per week) to improve the ability to structure and organize tasks of daily living, stabilize SUD symptoms, increase motivation, and develop recovery skills
- iv. Units of Service: Per bed day

d.2- Level 3.3 Clinically Managed, Population Specific, High-Intensity Residential Services (REQUIRED by year 3)

- i. Facility Requirement: Freestanding or integrated, appropriately licensed residential therapeutic rehabilitation facility with 24-hour supervision
- ii. Staffing: Professional interdisciplinary team; Registered/Certified AOD counselors and LPHAs; Telephone or in-person consultation with a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner including emergency services available 24/7
- iii. Service Characteristics: Daily clinical program activities to improve the ability to structure and organize tasks of daily living, stabilize SUD symptoms, increase motivation, and develop recovery skills. Direct affiliation with and ability to transfer to higher level(s) of care as necessary.
- iv. Units of Service: Per bed day

d.3- Level 3.5 Clinically Managed, High-Intensity Residential Services (REQUIRED by Year 3)

- i. Facility Requirement: Freestanding or integrated, appropriately licensed therapeutic community or residential facility
- ii. Staffing: Professional interdisciplinary team; Registered/Certified AOD counselors, LPHAs.
- iii. Service Characteristics: Daily, evidence-based clinical programs to improve the ability to structure and organize tasks of daily living, stabilize SUD symptoms, increase motivation, and develop recovery skills. Direct affiliation with and ability to transfer to higher level(s) of care as necessary.
- iv. Units of Service: Per bed day

d.4- Level 3.7 Medically Monitored, High-Intensity Inpatient Services (Coordination plan for this level REQUIRED in Implementation Plan)

- i. Facility Requirement: Inpatient Licensed Facility in a community setting or unit in an acute care general hospital or psychiatric hospital

- ii. Staffing: Interdisciplinary staff including physicians, nurses, Registered/
Certified AOD counselors and LPHAs; 24-hour nursing care
- iii. Service Characteristics: Daily clinical services to assess and address the patient's individual treatment needs and provide planned clinical program activities to stabilize the patient's SUD symptoms and/or psychiatric symptoms and develop recovery skills
- iv. Units of Service: DRG/CPE (not DMC-ODS)

d.5- Level 4 Medically Managed Inpatient Services

Services appropriate for patients who have severe, unstable mental and substance use disorders which at times may be complicated by significant medical issues (Coordination plan for this level REQUIRED in Implementation Plan)

- i. Facility Requirement: Inpatient Licensed Facility with acute care medical staff and life support equipment; unit in an acute care general hospital or psychiatric hospital
- ii. Staffing: Interdisciplinary staff including Physicians, nurses, Registered/Certified AOD counselors and LPHAs; 24-hour nursing care and daily physician care
- iii. Service Characteristics: Daily assessment and clinical services to address individual treatment needs, to include daily treatment to manage acute biomedical symptoms and provide recovery support services. Acute care services, specialty consultation, and intensive care- initial withdrawal management with daily nursing observation, evaluation, and monitoring may be provided.
- iv. Units of Service: DRG/CPE (not DMC-ODS)

- e. **Level 1 Opioid Treatment Programs (REQUIRED)**: providing methadone or buprenorphine formulations in an organized, ambulatory, addictions treatment service designed for patients with an opioid use disorder. Services are delivered by a team of personnel trained in the treatment of opioid use disorders.

- i. Facility Requirement: Licensed and certified programs
- ii. Staffing: Physician, nurses, certified AOD counselors and LPHAs
- iii. Service Characteristics: Individual and group counseling, and medication assisted treatment
- iv. Units of Service: 10-minute counseling increments; per day dosing

- f. **Detoxification levels of care (At least one level of Withdrawal Management is REQUIRED)**: Programs designed to achieve safe and comfortable withdrawal from mood-altering drugs, and to effectively facilitate the patient's transition into treatment and recovery

f.1. Level 1. WM, Ambulatory Withdrawal Management (without extended onsite monitoring)

- i. Facility Requirement: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) certified Outpatient (OP) facility with detoxification certification or OTP
- ii. Staffing: Prescribing physicians, nurses, registered/certified AOD counselors and LPHAs
- iii. Service Characteristics; Necessary services for assessment and medication or non-medication withdrawal management; Physician or nurse monitoring; and clinical support and education
- iv. Units of Service: DRG/CPE (not DMC-ODS)

f.2. Level 2-WM, Ambulatory Withdrawal Management (with extended on-site monitoring)

- i. Facility Requirement: DHCS (Department of Health Care Services) certified OP facility with detoxification certification
- ii. Staffing: Prescribing physicians, nurses, registered/certified AOD counselors and LPHAs
- iii. Service Characteristics; Necessary services for assessment and medication or non-medication withdrawal management; daily assessment by physician or nursing staff; and clinical support and education. Referral for ongoing support or transfer planning
- iv. Units of Service: DRG/CPE (not DMC-ODS)

f.3. Level 3.2-WM, Residential/Inpatient Clinically Managed Withdrawal Management

- i. Facility Requirement: DHCS licensed residential facility with detoxification certification
- ii. Staffing: Prescribing physicians, nurses, registered/certified AOD counselors and LPHAs
- iii. Service Characteristics; Necessary services for assessment and medication or non-medication withdrawal management; daily assessment by physician or nursing staff; and clinical support and education. Assessment for “step-down” and referral for ongoing support or transfer planning
- iv. Units of Service: Per bed day

f.4. Level 3.7-WM, Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Management

- i. Facility Requirement: Hospital; CDRH (Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospital); Free standing psychiatric hospital
- ii. Staffing: Prescribing physicians, nurses, registered/certified AOD counselors and LPHAs
- iii. Service Characteristics; Necessary services for assessment and medication withdrawal management; physical evaluation within 24-hours of admission with daily assessment by physician or nursing

- staff. Clinical support and education. Assessment for “step-down” and referral for ongoing support or transfer planning
- iv. Units of Service: DRG/CPE (not DMC-ODS)

f.5. Level 4-WM, Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Withdrawal

Management

- i. Facility Requirement: Hospital; CDRH; free-standing psychiatric hospital
- ii. Staffing: Prescribing physicians, nurses, registered/certified AOD counselors and LPHAs
- iii. Service Characteristics: Necessary services for assessment and complicated medication withdrawal management; physician and nursing staff available 24 hours a day, providing daily assessments and care. Clinical and psychiatric support and education. Assessment for “step-down” and referral for ongoing support or transfer planning
- iv. Units of Service: DRG/CPE (not DMC-ODS)
- v.

Identify and describe the required and optional non-ASAM designated Service Categories

1. **Additional Medication-Assisted Treatment (OPTIONAL)**- The ordering, prescribing, administering, and monitoring of all medications for SUD’s.
 - i. Facility Requirement: Licensed Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTPs) and by physicians and licensed prescribers in certified DMC programs
 - ii. Staffing: Physicians and licensed prescribers
 - iii. Service Characteristics: As a part of an individualized treatment plan in a DMC certified program. Reimbursement for buprenorphine, naltrexone (long acting injectable), and disulfiram.
 - iv. Units of Service: Dose (at drug cost), and 15-minute increments for ordering, prescribing, administering, and monitoring of all medications for substance use disorders

2. **Recovery Services (REQUIRED)**- Essential parts of addressing the treatment needs of Dimension 6 (Recovery Environment) supporting self-management strategies and linking the beneficiary to community resources
 - i. Facility Requirement: Anywhere in the community by face-to-face or by telehealth
 - ii. Staffing: Appropriate to level of service provided, may include peers who are not licensed or AOD Counselor certified
 - iii. Service Characteristics: Components may include brief counseling, recovery monitoring, support groups, and ancillary services
 - iv. Units of Service: 15-minute increments

3. **Case Management (REQUIRED)**- Services that assist a beneficiary to access needed services and to coordinate a system of services to ensure appropriate care.

- i. Facility Requirement: DMC provider sites, county locations or regional centers; by face-to-face or by telehealth
 - ii. Staffing: Certified counselor or LPHA
 - iii. Service Characteristics: Components may include periodic assessment; monitoring; linking and advocacy; and, coordination of and referral to services
 - iv. Units of Service: 15-minute increments
4. **Physician Consultation (REQUIRED)**- Physicians consulting with addiction medicine specialists (physicians, psychiatrists, or clinical pharmacists) to secure expert advice on designing treatment plans for DMC-ODS beneficiaries. This service is provided by contract between a designated consultant and a DMC provider physician.
- i. Facility Requirement: DMC provider sites; by face-to-face or by telehealth
 - ii. Staffing: Addiction medicine specialists (physicians, psychiatrists, or clinical pharmacists)
 - iii. Service Characteristics: Support DMC providers with complex cases which may address medication selection, dosing, side effect management, adherence, drug-drug interactions, or level of care considerations.
 - iv. Units of Service: 15-minute increments