STATE OF CALIFORNIA-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY GRAY DAVIS, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS
1700 K STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4037
TDD (916) 445-1942
(916) 322-6682

ADP BULLETIN

Title

Up to One-Month Take-Home Supply of Medication for Step Level Six Patients

Deputy Director Approval

(signed by)

Rebecca Lira
Licensing and Certification Division

Function:
[ ]Information Management
[**X**]Licensing & Certification
[ ]Service Delivery
[ ]Fiscal
[ ]Administration

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify all Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTPs) of a change in the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs' (ADP) policy, to grant temporary exceptions that allow eligible Step Level Six patients to receive up to a one-month take-home supply of medication. An exception request for a supply of up to one-month of take-home medication will be reviewed for approval by ADP, Narcotic Treatment Program Licensing Branch (NTPLB).

DISCUSSION

In response to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 42, Part 8, pertaining to NTP's use of Methadone and Levoalphacetylmethadol (LAAM), ADP has determined that up to a one-month take-home supply of medication may be allowed for patients that meet specific criteria.

Based upon a Medical Director's/Program Physician's medical judgement, only patients who have been on Step Level Six for a minimum of six months may be allowed to receive up to a one-month supply of medication. These patients must attend the program at least once a month for observed ingestion. In accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 9, Section 10425, ADP will grant temporary exceptions to Title 9, Sections 10260(c), 10310(e), 10370(d) and 10375(a)(6), to allow up to a one-month take-home supply of medication. NTPs must comply with all other State and federal regulations.

The Medical Director/Program Physician must fax the enclosed "Physician Request for a Temporary Exception to Regulations" Form ADP 8045, revised April 2002, (EXHIBIT 1) to: ADP, NTPLB, FAX number (916) 323-5086.

NTPs must amend program protocol procedures for providing up to one-month take-home supplies of medication to eligible Step Level Six patients. In accordance with CCR, Title 9, Section 10035(b)(c), protocol changes must be submitted to NTPLB in writing within 30 days after the date such change becomes effective. The protocol procedures must include the following:

1. Procedures for the selection process for Step Level Six patients being considered for receiving up to one-month supplies of take-home medication. Include a copy of the revised take-home agreement.

2. Procedures for ensuring documentation in the patient's record indicates six consecutive months of body specimen tests collected from the patient is both negative for illicit drugs and positive for the narcotic medication administered or dispensed by the program.

3. Procedures for ensuring criteria for take-home medication privilege as specified in CCR, Title 9, Section 10370 (a) & (b), are re-evaluated and documented.

4. Procedures on how the program will collect, at a minimum, eight random monthly body specimens per year from each patient receiving up to one-month of take-home medication.

5. Procedures on how periodic "call backs" to the clinic for observed ingestion, counseling, body specimen testing and/or medication count will be conducted. At a minimum, four callbacks should be required for each patient within a 12-month period.

   Patients must provide a telephone number for 24-hour call back testing and agree to keep the NTP updated on any telephone number changes. Upon being contacted, the patient must report to the program within a 24-hour period for additional instruction. In addition, the patient may be required to provide all remaining doses of medication to ensure the patient is responsible with their take-home medication.

6. Procedures for restricting/reducing take-home medications for patients receiving up to one-month supply of medication.

   The Medical Director/Program Physician shall restrict patients receiving up to one-month supply of medication by moving the patient back to six take-homes a week (Step Level Six or less), at a minimum for the reasons specified in CCR, Title 9, Section 10390.

7. Procedures for restoring a patient's take-home medications.

   The Medical Director/Program Physician shall ensure that the patient has met the applicable criteria for restoring take-homes as specified in CCR, Title 9, Section 10400, including subsection (a)(3).

8. Procedures for labeling of take-home bottles for solid medications.

Note: Business and Professions Code, Section 4076(a)(7)(8), specifies that the label include the strength and the quantity of the drug dispensed. Each take-home bottle must contain the same size milligram tablet or diskette.

An exception for a supply of up to one-month of take-home medication shall be submitted to NTPLB for prior approval.

REFERENCES

CCR, Title 9, Sections 10260 (c)(1); 10310 (e); 10355 (c)(3); 10365; 10370 (a)(d); 10375 (a)(6); 10390, and 10400.

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 8.

HISTORY

CCR, Title 9, Section 10375(a)(6), limits take-home medication privileges in California to a maximum six-day supply of medication. 42 CFR, Part 8, Section 8.12(i)(3)(vi), states that after two years of continuous treatment, a patient may be given a maximum one-month supply of medication.

QUESTIONS/MAINTENANCE

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call NTPLB, at (916) 322-6682.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Physician Request for a Temporary Exception to Regulations.

DISTRIBUTION

Narcotic Treatment Program Executive Directors
Narcotic Treatment Program Directors and Medical
Directors County Alcohol and Drug Program
Administrators Director's Advisory Council
Wagerman Associates, Inc.