



# **Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System: Medication Assisted Treatment Frequently Asked Questions**

Technical Assistance Webinar for Counties  
August 2, 2018



# Overview of Presentation

- State Updates
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Questions and Discussion
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# State Updates



# Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)

## *MAT FAQs*

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August 2, 2018



# Required MAT in DMC-ODS



# Medication Assisted Treatment

## What is MAT?

- MAT is the use of prescription medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a whole-person approach to the treatment of substance use disorders (SUDs).



# Beneficiary Rights

**Can residential or outpatient providers refuse to treat a beneficiary who is utilizing MAT?**

- No. Residential and outpatient facilities cannot deny a patient utilizing or needing MAT from program participation.



# DMC-ODS Requirements

## What are provider requirements under the DMC-ODS related to MAT?

Counties must require:

- That providers have procedures and protocols in place to assure care coordination and linkage to other services and supports for beneficiaries receiving MAT.
- Regular communication with the physicians of the beneficiaries who are prescribed these medications, unless the beneficiary chooses not to consent to signing a 42 CFR Part 2-compliant release of information for this purpose.



# Required MAT under the DMC-ODS

**What MAT services must be made available under the DMC-ODS (a.k.a. “required” MAT)?**

- Counties contracting to participate in DMC-ODS are required to cover and ensure access to Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) services in NTP-licensed settings.
- Services are provided in accordance with an individualized treatment plan determined by a licensed physician or licensed prescriber and approved and authorized according to the State of California requirements.



# Narcotic Treatment Programs

**What medications are required to be available through NTPs under DMC-ODS?**

- Medications required to be available through NTPs under DMC-ODS include:
  - Methadone
  - Buprenorphine
  - Naloxone
  - Disulfiram



# Narcotic Treatment Programs

## What are the components of NTP services?

- NTP service components include:
  - Intake
  - Individual and Group Counseling
  - Patient Education
  - Medication Services
  - Collateral Services
  - Crisis Intervention Services
  - Treatment Planning
  - Medical Psychotherapy
  - Discharge Services



# Narcotic Treatment Programs

**Are there counseling requirements for NTP services?**

- Yes. A patient must receive at minimum 50 minutes of counseling sessions with a therapist or counselor for up to 200 minutes per calendar month.



# Narcotic Treatment Programs

## Where can NTP services be provided?

- NTP services may only be provided in NTP-licensed settings.

## Can counties require prior authorization for NTP services?

- No. NTP services under DMC-ODS shall not require prior authorization.



# Narcotic Treatment Programs

## What are the reimbursement rates for NTP?

- The statewide rates are published annually by DHCS via Information Notices (INs).
- The Fiscal Year 17-18 reimbursement rates for methadone are reported in [MHSUDS IN 17-018](#).
- The rates for buprenorphine, disulfiram, and naloxone are reported in [MHSUDS IN 17-029](#).
- For updates, check:  
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/MHSUDS-Information-Notices.aspx>



# Narcotic Treatment Programs

**Is the National Drug Code (NDC) required for claiming medications at an NTP?**

- Claims for medications other than methadone must include the NDC. This applies to NTP and non-NTP settings.



# Naloxone

## What is naloxone?

- Naloxone is a life-saving medication that works to reverse an opioid overdose while having little to no effects on an individual if opioids are not present in their system.
- The medication can be given by intranasal spray, intramuscular (into the muscle), subcutaneous (under the skin), or intravenous injection.



# Naloxone

## Where is naloxone allowed?

- Licensed residential treatment programs and certified outpatient DMC treatment programs are permitted to utilize naloxone at their program site. All forms of naloxone are allowed.
- NTPs are required to offer naloxone under DMC-ODS.
- For complete information about naloxone, IN 17-048: [http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/MHSUDS\\_Information\\_Note\\_17\\_048\\_Naloxone.pdf](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/MHSUDS_Information_Note_17_048_Naloxone.pdf)



# Naloxone

## What are the requirements for DMC-ODS sites that provide naloxone?

- All forms of the medication shall be recorded, stored, and destroyed in the same manner as prescription medications.
- Programs must have policies, procedures, and protocols related to how the medication will be stored, any documentation associated with the administration of it, and disposal.



# Naloxone

**Can the requirement to offer naloxone at an NTP be met by offering a form of buprenorphine (suboxone) that contains both buprenorphine and naloxone in the formula?**

- No. While NTPs may offer forms of buprenorphine that contain naloxone in the formula, this is not a replacement for naloxone.
- Naloxone by itself is used to treat a narcotic overdose in an emergency situation.
- Naloxone as a combo product with buprenorphine is utilized to prevent diversion of the medication.



# Optional MAT in DMC-ODS



# Optional MAT in DMC-ODS

**What are the optional MAT services covered under DMC-ODS?**

- Counties contracting to participate in DMC-ODS may choose to offer additional MAT beyond the required NTP services. These services shall be described in the county intergovernmental agreement.



# Optional MAT in DMC-ODS

## What are the components of optional MAT?

The service components include:

- Ordering
- Prescribing
- Administering
- Monitoring

## Where can optional MAT services be provided?

- Optional MAT services can be provided in a variety of settings as specified in the county-specific intergovernmental agreement.



# Optional MAT in DMC-ODS

**What are the reimbursement rates for optional MAT services covered by individual counties under DMC-ODS?**

- The rates for optional MAT services (e.g., long-acting injectable naltrexone) are developed by each county subject to DHCS approval.

**Is the NDC required for claiming optional MAT?**

- Claims for medications other than methadone must include the NDC. This applies to NTP and non-NTP settings.



# MAT Outside of DMC-ODS



# MAT Services Outside of DMC-ODS

## Are MAT services available outside of DMC-ODS?

- Yes. Medi-Cal beneficiaries may access MAT services outside of DMC-ODS under certain circumstances:
  - **Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medical Benefit.** SUD treatment providers may offer certain MAT services by enrolling physicians as FFS providers and adhering to various registration and other regulatory requirements.
  - **Medi-Cal Pharmacy Benefit.** If a FFS physician does not administer the drug and instead writes a prescription for the medication to be dispensed or administered at a pharmacy, the drug cost is covered under the Pharmacy Benefit.



# MAT Services Outside of DMC-ODS

## What medications are available outside of DMC-ODS for Medi-Cal beneficiaries?

- Medications covered by Medi-Cal that may be prescribed by an appropriately registered and enrolled FFS physician include:
  - Buprenorphine
  - Injectable Naltrexone
  - Naloxone
  - Disulfiram
  - Acamprosate
  - Other FDA-approved medications for SUD on Medi-Cal formulary



# MAT Services Outside of DMC-ODS

**Is methadone available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries via the FFS Medical or Pharmacy Benefit?**

- No. Methadone is only available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries through a certified NTP under the DMC-ODS program (or standard DMC program in non-ODS counties).



# MAT Services Outside of DMC-ODS

**What are the requirements for providers that want to order, stock, prescribe, and / or administer buprenorphine via FFS?**

- Physicians, Nurse Practitioners or Physician Assistants at SUD facilities who have enrolled as FFS providers also need to obtain a federal DATA 2000 waiver (X number) to prescribe buprenorphine.
- DATA 2000 waivered (X number) Medi-Cal physicians can order, stock, prescribe, and administer covered buprenorphine for treatment of SUDs.
- Medications may be prescribed / dispensed / administered in the office / clinic setting.



# MAT Services Outside of DMC-ODS

**Where can I find more information about MAT available through FFS?**

- The Medi-Cal provider manual is posted online and contains detailed information about the coverage available under the FFS program.
- The manual is available at: [http://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/Manuals\\_menu.asp](http://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/Manuals_menu.asp)



# Questions and Discussion

*For optimal sound quality, please ensure that you are dialed-in using your phone and that you have inputted your **audio PIN**.*





## DMC-ODS Resources

For additional information, please see the DMC-ODS Resources section of the DHCS Website:

[http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/DMC\\_ODS\\_Resources.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/DMC_ODS_Resources.aspx)

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