



Medication Assisted Treatment and the DMC-ODS Pilot Program
Frequently Asked Questions
June 2016

The following answers to frequently asked questions intend to provide clarification regarding medication assisted treatment services through the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Pilot Program.

This document will be updated as necessary.

For additional information regarding the DMC-ODS pilot program:

- Visit <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Drug-Medi-Cal-Organized-Delivery-System.aspx>
- Contact us as DMCODSWAIVER@dhcs.ca.gov

1. What is medication assisted treatment?

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is the clinically driven use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a whole-person approach to the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD). Research shows that a combination of MAT and behavioral therapies is a successful method to treat SUD. Current reimbursement mechanisms for MAT will remain the same, but Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) opt-in counties also have the option to offer Additional Medication Assisted Treatment. There are different doors through which beneficiaries in need of MAT enter the Medi-Cal system.

MAT is provided through DMC-ODS as part of the ASAM continuum of care (ASAM OTP Level 1 – “Additional Medication Assisted Treatment”). The components of Additional Medication Assisted Treatment include ordering, prescribing, administering, and monitoring of medications for SUD. Medically necessary services are provided in accordance with an individualized treatment plan determined by a licensed physician or licensed prescriber.

2. What are options for expanding MAT services?

Counties are encouraged to increase MAT services by exploring the use of the following interventions:

- Extend Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP)/Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) to remote locations using medication units and contracted pharmacies, which may have onsite counseling and urinalysis.
- Implement medication management protocols for alcohol dependence, including naltrexone, disulfiram, and acamprosate. Alcohol maintenance medications may be dispensed onsite in NTPs/OTPs or prescribed by providers in outpatient programs.
- Provide ambulatory alcohol detoxification services in settings such as outpatient programs, NTPs/OTPs, and contracted pharmacies.

3. What are the differences between required MAT services and optional additional MAT services through DMC-ODS?

DMC-ODS Required MAT includes:

- NTP Services
- Access to Buprenorphine, Naloxone, Disulfiram, and Methadone in an NTP setting with rates set by DHCS

DMC-ODS Optional Additional MAT includes:

- FDA approved medications (any Drug Medi-Cal setting)
- Ordering, prescribing, administering, and monitoring of MAT
- Utilization of long-acting injectable naltrexone at DMC facilities, including NTPs
- County-proposed interim rates for additional MAT outside of a NTP setting, including Buprenorphine, Disulfiram, Naloxone, and Vivitrol

4. What are the provider contract requirements for MAT?

Counties must require through contract that providers have procedures and protocols in place to assure care coordination and linkage to other services and supports for beneficiaries receiving MAT. Provider staff shall maintain regular communication with the physicians of the clients who are prescribed these medications, unless the client chooses not to consent to signing a 42 CFR part 2 compliant release of information for this purpose.

5. What medications are required to be available to patients through NTPs in waiver opt-in counties?

- Methadone
- Buprenorphine
- Disulfiram
- Naloxone

6. Can the requirement to offer Naloxone at a NTP be met by offering a form of Buprenorphine 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.

7. Who develops the rates for medications?

The rate for medications provided to NTP patients is developed by DHCS. The rate for medications provided to non-NTP patients is developed by each County.

8. Who qualifies as a NTP patient?

Per HSC 11839.2, a NTP patient must be using narcotic replacement therapy, which includes Methadone and Buprenorphine.

9. How can MAT services be provided at a NTP site to a non-NTP patient?

A NTP site can enroll with PED to provide all of the different MAT options with a dual DMC certification for NTP and Outpatient. For example, if a county chooses to provide additional MAT services, Vivitrol can be administered at a NTP site, however the individual would be part of the outpatient program, not a NTP patient. That individual could also get counseling at the site, but they would be receiving ODF counseling, not NTP counseling.

DMC-ODS: Optional Additional MAT

1. FDA approved medications are allowable in any Drug Medi-Cal setting.
2. Physicians and licensed prescribers in DMC programs will be reimbursed for the ordering, prescribing, administering, and monitoring of medication assisted treatment.
3. DMC facilities; including NTPs may utilize long-acting injectable naltrexone.
4. The County proposes the interim rates for additional MAT (only if outside of a NTP setting).

DMC-ODS: Required MAT

1. NTP Services are required.
2. Methadone is only in a NTP setting.
3. NTPs are required to provide access to: Buprenorphine, Naloxone, and Disulfiram.
4. DHCS sets the rate for these medications (only in NTP settings).