*[NAME of COUNTY]

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

Beneficiary Handbook

***[MHP Address**
City, CA ZIP]

Published Date: 2022[1]
Throughout this document, text has been edited to indicate where handbook language has been updated or revised, as follows:

- Text that has been removed is shown with a strikethrough.
- Text that has been added is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
- Text preceded by an asterisk is where a county shall add their information (*).

[1] **The handbook will be provided to beneficiaries within 14 business days after receiving notice of enrollment.**

English

ATTENTION: If you speak another language, **this handbook in the alternate language and oral interpreter services are available to you**, free of charge. Call *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*) **for assistance.**

ATTENTION: Auxiliary aids and services, including but not limited to large print documents and alternative formats, are available to you free of charge upon request. Call *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*).

Español (Spanish)

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*).

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxxx-xxxx]*).

Tagalog (Tagalog – Filipino)

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*).

한국어 (Korean)

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*)번으로 전화해 주십시오.

繁體中文(Chinese)

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*)。

Հայերեն (Armenian)

ՈՒՇԱԴՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ՝ Եթե խոսում եք հայերեն, ապա ձեզ անվճար կարող են տրամադրվել լեզվական աջակցության ծառայություններ: Զանգահարեք *[1-xxx-xxx- xxxx]* (TTY (հեռատիպ)՝ *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*).

Русский (Russian)

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (телетайп: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*).

فارسی (Farsi)

توجه: اگر به زبان فارسی گفتگو می کنید، تسهیلات زبانی بصورت رایگان برای شما فراهم می باشد. ب (TTY:*[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*) (*1-* تماس بگیرید.

日本語 (Japanese)

注意事項：日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。*[1-xxx-xxx- xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*) まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

Hmoob (Hmong)

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*).

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)

ਿਧਆਨ ਿਦਓ: ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀ ਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਿਵੱਚ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਸੇਵਾ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਮੁਫਤ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ। *[1-xxx- xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*) 'ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ।

العربية (Arabic)

[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم *TTY:*)

हिंदी (Hindi)

◆ान द◆: यिद आप िहंदी बोलते ह◆ तो आपके िलए मु◆ ◆ भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपल◆ ह◆। *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*) पर कॉल कर◆।

ภาษาไทย (Thai)

เรียน: ถาคุ ้ ณพูดภาษาไทยคุณสามารถใชบ้รกิ ารชวย่เหลอืทางภาษาไดฟ้ รีโทร *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*).

ែខ្មរ (Cambodian)

ប្រយ័ត្ន៖ រ េសើ ិន្អកនិ្យ ្ែខ្, រស្ជំនួយ មនកេ្ េ្យមិនគិត្ួ្ន គឺ្ច្នសំ្ ំ ំរ អ្េ ើនក។ ចូរទូសព្ ័ *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*)។

ພາສາລາວ (Lao)

ໂປດຊາບ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວ ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍ ລິການຊ່ວຍເຫ ືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໂດຍບ່ ເສັງຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທຣ *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]* (TTY: *[1-xxx-xxx-xxxx]*).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Emergency Services

Emergency services are covered 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. If you think you are having a health-related emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room for help.

Emergency Services are services provided for an unexpected medical condition, including a psychiatric emergency medical condition.

An emergency medical condition is present when you have symptoms that cause severe pain or a serious illness or an injury, which a prudent layperson (a careful or cautious non-medical person) believes, could reasonably expect without medical care could:

- Put your health in serious danger, or
- If you are pregnant, put your health or the health of your unborn child in serious danger, or
- Cause serious harm to the way your body works, or
- Cause serious damage to any body organ or part.

You have the right to use any hospital in the case of emergency. Emergency services never require authorization.

Who Do I Contact If I'm Having Suicidal Thoughts?

If you or someone you know is in crisis, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **988 or** **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**.

For local residents seeking assistance in a crisis and to access local mental health programs, please call *[County to Insert 24 Hour Crisis Intervention Number(s)].

Why Is It Important To Read This Handbook?

*[County to insert a welcome message to new members including the basic features of managed care and the service area covered by the DMC-ODS plan.]

It is important that you understand how the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) plan works so you can get the care you need. This handbook explains your benefits and how to get care. It will also answer many of your questions.

You will learn:

- How to receive substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services through your county DMC-ODS plan
- What benefits you have access to
- What to do if you have a question or problem
- Your rights and responsibilities as a member of your county DMC-ODS plan

If you don't read this handbook now, you should keep this handbook so you can read it later. Use this handbook as an addition to the member handbook that you received when you enrolled in your current Medi-Cal benefit. **Your Medi-Cal benefit** ~~That~~ could be with a Medi-Cal managed care plan **(MCP)** or with the regular Medi-Cal "Fee for Service" program.

As A Member Of Your County DMC-ODS Plan, Your County Plan Is Responsible For:

- Determining if you meet access criteria for DMC-ODS services from the county or its provider network.
- Coordinating your care.
- Providing a toll-free phone number that is answered 24 hours a day and 7 days a week that can tell you about how to get services from the County Plan. You can also contact the County Plan at this number to request availability of after-hours care.

- Having enough providers to make sure that you can get the SUD treatment services covered by the County Plan if you need them.
- Informing and educating you about services available from your County Plan.
- Providing you services in your language or by an interpreter (if necessary) free of charge and letting you know that these interpreter services are available.
- Providing you with written information about what is available to you in other languages or formats. *[County to insert additional information about materials in threshold languages, availability of alternative formats, availability of auxiliary aids and services, etc.]
- Providing you with notice of any significant change in the information specified in this handbook at least 30 days before the intended effective date of the change. A change would be considered significant when there is an increase or decrease in the amount or type of services that are available, or if there is an increase or decrease in the number of network providers, or if there is any other change that would impact the benefits you receive through the County Plan.
- Informing you if any contracted provider refuses to perform or otherwise support any covered service due to moral, ethical, or religious objections and informing you of alternative providers that do offer the covered service.
- Ensuring that you have continued access to your previous, and now out-of-network, provider for a period of time if changing providers would cause your health to suffer or increase your risk of hospitalization.

*[County to insert toll-free phone number for member services and if there is a separate phone line for utilization management contact, please include here.]

Information for Members Who Need Materials In A Different Language

*[County To Insert Applicable Information.]

Information for Members Who Have Trouble Reading

*[County To Insert Applicable Information.]

Information for Members Who Are Hearing Impaired

*[County To Insert Applicable Information.]

Information for Members Who Are Vision Impaired

*[County To Insert Applicable Information.]

Notice of Privacy Practices

*[County To Insert Applicable Information.]

Who Do I Contact If I Feel That I Was Discriminated Against?

Discrimination is against the law. The State of California and DMC-ODS comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability. DMC-ODS:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities, such as:
    - Qualified sign language interpreters
    - Written information in other formats (braille, large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, and other formats)

- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
    - Qualified oral interpreters
    - Information in threshold languages

You do not have to use a family member or friend as an interpreter. Free interpreter, linguistic, and cultural services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you need these services, contact your County Plan.

If you believe that the State of California or DMC-ODS has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:

*[Name And Title Of Civil Rights Coordinator]
[Mailing Address]
[Telephone Number] (Tty [Tty Number—If Covered Entity Has One])
[Fax]
[Email]

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, *[Name and Title of Civil Rights Coordinator] is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint electronically with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/smartscreen/main.jsf. You can file a civil rights complaint by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
1-800-368-1019, 1-800-537-7697 (TDD)

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

SERVICES

What Are DMC-ODS Services?

DMC-ODS services are health care services for people who have ~~at least one~~ **a** SUD that the regular doctor cannot treat.

DMC-ODS services include:

- Outpatient **Treatment** Services
- Intensive Outpatient Treatment **Services**
- Partial Hospitalization **Services** (only available in some counties)
- Residential**/Inpatient** Treatment **Services** (subject to prior authorization by the county)
- Withdrawal Management **Services**
- **Narcotic** ~~Opioid~~ Treatment **Program Services**
- ~~Medication Assisted Treatment (varies by county)~~ **Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)**
- Recovery Services
- **Peer Support Specialists Services (only available in some counties)**
- ~~Case Management~~ **Care Coordination Services**
- **Contingency Management (only available in some counties)**

If you would like to learn more about each DMC-ODS service that may be available to you, see the descriptions below:

Outpatient **Treatment** Services

- Counseling services are provided to members up to nine hours a week for adults and less than six hours a week for adolescents when medically necessary. Services can be provided by a licensed professional or a certified counselor in any appropriate setting in the community, **by telephone, or by telehealth.**
- Outpatient Services includes assessment, ~~treatment planning, individual counseling, group counseling, family therapy, collateral services, member~~

~~education, medication services, crisis intervention services, and discharge planning~~ **care coordination, counseling, family therapy, medication services, MAT for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), MAT for Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) and other non-opioid Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), patient education, recovery services, and SUD crisis intervention services.**

- **[County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

Intensive Outpatient Services

- Intensive Outpatient Services are provided to members (a minimum of nine hours with a maximum of 19 hours a week for adults and a minimum of six hours with a maximum of 19 hours a week for adolescents) when determined to be medically necessary. ~~and in accordance with an individualized client plan~~ Services consist primarily of counseling and education about addiction-related problems. Services can be provided by a licensed professional or a certified counselor in ~~any appropriate~~ **a structured** setting ~~in the community~~. **Intensive Outpatient Treatment Services may be provided in person, by telehealth, or by telephone.**
- Intensive Outpatient Services include the same components as Outpatient Services. The increased number of hours of service are the main difference.
- ** [County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

Partial Hospitalization (only available in some counties)

- Partial Hospitalization services feature 20 or more hours of clinically intensive programming per week, as ~~specified in the member's treatment plan~~ **medically necessary.** Partial hospitalization programs typically have direct access to psychiatric, medical, and laboratory services, and are to meet the identified needs which warrant daily monitoring or management but which can be

appropriately addressed in a **clinically intensive** ~~structured~~ outpatient setting. **Services may be provided in person, by synchronous telehealth, or by telephone.**

- Partial Hospitalization services are similar to Intensive Outpatient Services, with an increase in number of hours and additional access to medical services being the main differences.
- **[County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

Residential Treatment (subject to authorization by the county)

- Residential Treatment is a non-institutional, 24-hour non-medical, short-term residential program that provides rehabilitation services to members with a SUD diagnosis when determined as medically necessary. ~~and in accordance with an individualized treatment plan.~~ Each member shall live on the premises and shall be supported in their efforts to restore, maintain, and apply interpersonal and independent living skills and access community support systems. **Most services are provided in person; however, telehealth and telephone may also be used to provide services while a person is in residential treatment.** Providers and residents work collaboratively to define barriers, set priorities, establish goals, ~~create treatment plans~~ and solve SUD related problems. Goals include sustaining abstinence, preparing for relapse triggers, improving personal health and social functioning, and engaging in continuing care.
- Residential services require prior authorization by the County Plan. Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) eligible members (under the age of 21) ~~will not have the authorization limits described above as long as medical~~ **will receive services that are determined to be medically necessary.** ~~necessity establishes the need for ongoing residential services.~~
- Residential Services includes intake and assessment~~, treatment planning~~ **care coordination**, individual counseling, group counseling, family therapy, ~~collateral~~

~~services, member education,~~ medication services, ~~safeguarding medications (facilities will store all resident medication and facility staff members may assist with resident's self-administration of medication)~~ **MAT for OUD, MAT for ~~of~~ AUD and other non-opioid SUDS, patient education, recovery services, and SUD** crisis intervention services. ~~transportation (provision of or arrangement for transportation to and from medically necessary treatment) and discharge planning.~~

- **[County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

****Inpatient Treatment Services (varies by county)****

- **Inpatient services are provided in a 24-hour setting that provides professionally directed evaluation, observation, medical monitoring, and addiction treatment in an inpatient setting. Most services are provided in person; however, telehealth and telephone may also be used to provide services while a person is in inpatient treatment.**
- **Inpatient services are highly structured and a physician is likely available on-site 24 hours daily, along with RNs, addiction counsellors and other clinical staff. Inpatient Services includes assessment, care coordination, counseling, family therapy, medication services, MAT for ~~Opioid Use Disorder (~~OUD, MAT for ~~Alcohol Use Disorder (~~AUD and other non-opioid ~~Substance Use Disorders (~~SUDs, patient education, recovery services, and SUD crisis intervention services.**

****Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP)**

- ~~Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP)~~ **NTPs are ~~is an~~ outpatient programs that provide FDA-approved drugs to treat SUD~~S~~ when ordered by a physician as medically necessary. NTPs are required to offer and prescribe medications to

members covered under the DMC-ODS formulary including methadone, buprenorphine, naloxone, and disulfiram.**

- **A member must receive, at a minimum, 50 minutes of counseling sessions per calendar month. These counseling services can be provided in person, by telehealth, or by telephone. Narcotic Treatment Services includes assessment, care coordination, counseling, family therapy, medical psychotherapy, medication services, MAT for ~~Opioid Use Disorder (~~OUD, MAT for ~~Alcohol Use Disorder (~~AUD and other non-opioid ~~Substance Use Disorders (~~SUDs, patient education, recovery services, and SUD crisis intervention services.**
- **[County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

Withdrawal Management

- Withdrawal management services are urgent and provided on a short-term basis. Withdrawal Management services ~~are provided when determined as medically necessary and in accordance with an individualized client plan~~ **can be provided before a full assessment has been completed.**
- Each member shall reside at the facility if receiving a residential service and will be monitored during the detoxification process. Medically necessary habilitative and rehabilitative services are provided ~~in accordance with an individualized client plan~~ prescribed by a licensed physician, or licensed prescriber~~ and approved and authorized according to the State of California requirements~~.
- Withdrawal Management Services include ~~intake and~~ assessment, ~~observation (to evaluate health status and response to any prescribed medication), medication services, and discharge planning.~~ **care coordination, medication services, MAT for OUD, MAT for AUD and other non-opioid SUDs, observation, and recovery services.**

- **[County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

~~**Opioid Treatment**~~

- ~~Opioid (Narcotic) Treatment Program (OTP/NTP) services are provided in NTP licensed facilities. Medically necessary services are provided in accordance with an individualized client plan determined by a licensed physician or licensed prescriber, and approved and authorized according to the State of California requirements. OTPs/NTPs are required to offer and prescribe medications to members covered under the DMC-ODS formulary including methadone, buprenorphine, naloxone, and disulfiram.~~
- ~~A member must receive, at a minimum, 50 minutes of counseling sessions with a therapist or counselor for up to 200 minutes per calendar month, although additional services may be provided based on medical necessity.~~
- ~~Opioid Treatment Services include the same components as Outpatient Treatment Services, with the inclusion of medical psychotherapy consisting of a face-to-face discussion conducted by a physician on a one-on-one basis with the member.~~
- ~~*[County should include a description to reflect the local amount, duration, and scope of the benefit]*~~

Medications** ~~**Assisted**~~ **for Addiction** Treatment **(MAT)**** ~~(varies by county)~~

- MAT Services are available **in clinical and non-clinical settings.** ~~outside of the OTP clinic.~~ MAT is the use of prescription medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a whole-person approach to the treatment of SUD. ~~Medications for addiction treatment~~ MAT includes all FDA-approved medications and biological products to treat AUD, OUD, and any SUD. ~~Providing this level of service is optional for participating counties.~~

- MAT ~~services includes the ordering, prescribing, administering, and monitoring of all medications for SUD. Opioid and alcohol dependence, in particular, have well established medication options. Physicians and other prescribers may offer medications to members covered under the DMC-ODS formulary including buprenorphine, naloxone, disulfiram, Vivitrol, acamprosate, or any FDA approved medication for the treatment of SUD.~~ **may be provided with the following services: assessment, care coordination, individual counseling, group counseling, family therapy, medication services, patient education, recovery services, SUD crisis intervention services, and withdrawal management services.**
- **[County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

****Peer Support Services** (varies by county)**

- **Providing Peer Support Services is optional for participating counties. [County should clarify if county does not cover Peer Support Services for DMC-ODS.]**
- **Peer Support Services are culturally competent individual and group services that promote recovery, resiliency, engagement, socialization, self-sufficiency, self-advocacy, development of natural supports, and identification of strengths through structured activities. These services can be provided to you or your designated significant support person(s) and can be received at that same time as you receive other DMC-ODS services. The Peer Specialist in Peer Support Services is an individual in recovery with a current State-approved certification program and who provides these services under the direction of a Behavioral Health Professional who is licensed, waivered, or registered with the State.**
- **Peer Support Services include educational skill building groups, engagement services to encourage you to participate in behavioral health treatment, and therapeutic activities such as promoting self-advocacy.**

- **[County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

Recovery Services

- Recovery Services ~~are~~ **can be** important to **your** ~~the member's~~ recovery and wellness. **Recovery services can help you connect to** the treatment community ~~becomes a therapeutic agent through which members you are empowered and prepared~~ to manage **your** ~~their~~ health and health care. Therefore, ~~treatment~~ **this service** ~~must~~ emphasizes **your** ~~the member's central~~ role in managing ~~their~~ **your** health, **using** effective self-management support strategies, and **organizing** internal and community resources to provide ongoing self-management support ~~to members~~.
- **You may receive Recovery Services based on your self-assessment or provider assessment of relapse risk. Services may be provided in person, by telehealth, or by telephone.**
- Recovery Services **includes assessment, care coordination, individual counseling, group counseling, family therapy, recovery monitoring, and relapse prevention components.** ~~include individual and group counseling; recovery monitoring/substance abuse assistance (recovery coaching, relapse prevention, and peer-to-peer services); and case management (linkages to educational, vocational, family supports, community-based supports, housing, transportation, and other services based on need).~~
- **[County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

****Care Coordination****

- **Care Coordination Services consists of activities to provide coordination of SUD care, mental health care, and medical care, and to provide connections to

services and supports for your health. Care Coordination is provided at all levels of treatment and can occur at clinical or non-clinical settings, including in your community.**

- **Care Coordination Services include coordinating with medical and mental health providers to monitor and support health conditions, discharge planning, and coordinating with ancillary services including connecting you to community-based services such as childcare, transportation, and housing.**
- **[County] (include any additional information regarding the amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Agreement in sufficient detail to ensure that beneficiaries understand the benefits to which they are entitled)**

~~**Case Management**~~

- ~~Case Management Services assist a member to access needed medical, educational, social, prevocational, vocational, rehabilitative, or other community services. These services focus on coordination of SUD care, integration around primary care especially for members with a chronic SUD, and interaction with the criminal justice system, if needed.~~
- ~~Case Management Services include a comprehensive assessment and periodic reassessment of individual needs to determine the need for continuation of case management services; transitions to higher or lower levels of SUD care; development and periodic revision of a client plan that includes service activities; communication, coordination, referral and related activities; monitoring service delivery to ensure member access to service and the service delivery system; monitoring the member's progress; and, member advocacy, linkages to physical and mental health care, transportation and retention in primary care services.~~
- ~~Case management shall be consistent with and shall not violate confidentiality of any member as set forth in Federal and California law.~~

Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)

**Beneficiaries under age 21 are eligible to get additional Medi-Cal services through a benefit called ~~Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (~~EPSDT.

To be eligible for EPSDT services, a beneficiary must be under age 21 and have full scope Medi-Cal. EPSDT covers services that are medically necessary to correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental health conditions. Services that sustain, support, improve, or make a condition more tolerable are considered to ameliorate the diagnosis and are covered as EPSDT services.

If you have questions about the EPSDT benefit, please call [County to Insert Relevant Information Here].**

~~If you are under 21 years of age, you may receive additional medically necessary services under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT). EPSDT services include screening, vision, dental, hearing and all other medically necessary mandatory and optional services listed in federal law 42 U.S.C. 1396d(a) to correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses and conditions identified in an EPSDT screening whether or not the services are covered for adults. The requirement for medical necessity and cost effectiveness are the only limitations or exclusions that are applicable to EPSDT services.~~

~~For a more complete description of the EPSDT services that are available and to have your questions answered, please call *[Insert county name]~~ Member Services.~~

**Additional County Specific Information

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

HOW TO GET DMC-ODS SERVICES

How Do I Get DMC-ODS Services?

If you think you need ~~substance use disorder (~~SUD treatment services, you can get services by asking the County Plan for them yourself. You can call your county toll-free phone number listed in the front section of this handbook. You may also be referred to your County Plan for SUD treatment services in other ways. Your County Plan is required to accept referrals for SUD treatment services from doctors and other primary care providers who think you may need these services and from your Medi-Cal ~~managed care health plan~~ **MCP**, if you are a member. Usually the provider or the Medi-Cal ~~managed care health plan~~ **MCP** will need your permission or the permission of the parent or caregiver of a child to make the referral, unless there is an emergency. Other people and organizations may also make referrals to the county, including schools; county welfare or social services departments; conservators, guardians or family members; and law enforcement agencies.

The covered services are available through *[Insert County Name]'s provider network. If any contracted provider raises an objection to performing or otherwise supporting any covered service, *[Insert County Name] will arrange for another provider to perform the service. *[Insert County Name] will respond with timely referrals and coordination in the event that a covered service is not available from a provider because of religious, ethical or moral objections to the covered service. **Your county may not deny a request to do an initial assessment to determine whether you meet the criteria to access DMC-ODS services.**

[County should include a description to reflect the transition of care policies for enrollees and potential enrollees.]

Where Can I Get DMC-ODS Services?

*[Insert County Name] is participating in the DMC-ODS program. Since you are a resident of *[Insert County Name], you can get DMC-ODS services in the county where you live through the DMC-ODS County Plan. Your County Plan has SUD treatment providers available to treat conditions that are covered by the plan. ~~Other counties that provide Drug Medi-Cal services that are not participating in the DMC-ODS will be able to provide the following DMC services to you if needed.~~ **Other counties that are not participating in the DMC-ODS are able to provide the following Drug Medi-Cal services:

- Outpatient Treatment
- Narcotic Treatment
- Naltrexone Treatment
- Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Perinatal Residential Substance Abuse Service (excluding room and board)**

If you are under 21 years of age, you are also eligible for EPSDT services in any other county across the state.

After Hours Care

[County should include a description to illustrate the means to accessing after-hours care]

How Do I Know When I Need Help?

Many people have difficult times in life and may experience SUD problems. The most important thing to remember **is that help is available** ~~when asking yourself if you need professional help is to trust yourself.~~ If you are eligible for Medi-Cal, and you think you may need professional help, you should request an assessment from your County Plan to find out for sure since you currently reside in a DMC-ODS participating county.

How Do I Know When A Child or Teenager Needs Help?

You may contact your participating county DMC-ODS plan for an assessment for your child or teenager if you think he or she is showing any of the signs of a SUD. If your child or teenager qualifies for Medi-Cal and the county assessment indicates that drug and alcohol treatment services covered by the participating county are needed, the county will arrange for your child or teenager to receive the services.

****When Can I Get DMC-ODS Services?****

Your County Plan has to meet the state's appointment time standards when scheduling an appointment for you to receive services from the County Plan. The County must offer you an appointment that meets the following appointment time standards:

- **Within 10 business days of your non-urgent request to start services with a substance use disorder provider for outpatient and intensive outpatient services;
- Within 3 business days of your request for NTP services;
- A follow-up appointment within 10 days if you're undergoing a course of treatment for an ongoing substance use disorder, except for certain cases identified by your treating provider;**

****Who Decides Which Services I Will Get?****

You, your provider, and the County Plan are all involved in deciding what services you need to receive through the County Plan. A substance use disorder provider will talk with you and through their assessment they will help determine what level of care is appropriate based on your needs.

A substance use disorder provider will evaluate whether you have a substance use disorder and the most appropriate level of care for your needs. You will be able to receive services you need while your provider conducts this assessment.

If you are under age 21, the County Plan must provide medically necessary services that will help to correct or improve your mental health condition. Services that sustain, support, improve, or make more tolerable a mental health condition are considered medically necessary.

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

HOW TO GET MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Where Can I Get Specialty Mental Health Services?

You can get specialty mental health services in the county where you live. *[County can insert more information about the service area covered by the MHP]. Each county has specialty mental health services for children, youth, adults, and older adults. If you are under 21 years of age, you are eligible for ~~Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (~~EPSDT, which may include additional coverage and benefits.

Your MHP will determine if you ~~need~~ **meet the access criteria for** specialty mental health services. If you do,~~ need specialty mental health services~~ the MHP will refer you to a mental health provider **who will assess you to determine what services you need. **You can also request an assessment from your ~~Managed Care Plan (~~ MCP if you are a member. If the MCP determines that you meet the access criteria for specialty mental health services, the MCP will help you transition to receive mental health services through the MHP. There is no wrong door for accessing mental health services.**

**Additional County Specific Information

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

ACCESS CRITERIA & MEDICAL NECESSITY

What Are The Access Criteria For Coverage Of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services?

As part of deciding if you need SUD treatment services, the county DMC-ODS plan will work with you and your provider to decide if you meet the access criteria to receive DMC-ODS services. This section explains how your participating county will make that decision.

Your provider will work with you to conduct an assessment to determine which DMC-ODS services are most appropriate for you. This assessment must be performed face-to-face, through telehealth, or by telephone. You may receive some services while the assessment is taking place.

After your provider completes the assessment, they will determine if you meet the following access criteria to receive services through the DMC-ODS:

- **You must be enrolled in Medi-Cal.
- You must reside in a county that is participating in the DMC-ODS.
- You must have at least one diagnosis from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) for a Substance-Related and Addictive Disorder (with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non-Substance-Related Disorders) or have had at least one diagnosis from the DSM for Substance Related and Addictive disorders prior to being incarcerated or during incarceration (with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non-Substance-Related Disorders).**

Beneficiaries under age 21 qualify to receive all medically necessary DMC-ODS services.

What Is Medical Necessity ~~And Why Is It So Important?~~

**Services you receive must be medically necessary and appropriate to address your condition.

For individuals 21 years of age and older, a service is medically necessary when it is reasonable and necessary to protect your life, prevent significant illness or disability, or to alleviate severe pain.

For those under the age of 21, a service is medically necessary if the service corrects or ameliorates substance misuse or a SUD. Services that sustain, supports, improve, or make more tolerable substance misuse or a SUD are considered to ameliorate the condition and are thus covered as EPSDT services.**

~~One of the conditions necessary for receiving SUD treatment services through your county's DMC-ODS plan is something called 'medical necessity.' This means a doctor or other licensed professional will talk with you to decide if there is a medical need for services, and if you can be helped by services if you receive them.~~

~~The term medical necessity is important because it will help decide if you are eligible for DMC-ODS services, and what kind of DMC-ODS services are appropriate. Deciding medical necessity is a very important part of the process of getting DMC-ODS services.~~

~~What Are The 'Medical Necessity' Criteria For Coverage Of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services?~~

~~As part of deciding if you need SUD treatment services, the county DMC-ODS plan will work with you and your provider to decide if the services are a medical necessity, as explained above. This section explains how your participating county will make that decision.~~

~~In order to receive services through the DMC-ODS, you must meet the following criteria:~~

- ~~You must be enrolled in Medi-Cal.~~
- ~~You must reside in a county that is participating in the DMC-ODS.~~

- ~~You must have at least one diagnosis from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) for a Substance-Related and Addictive Disorder. Any adult, or youth under the age of 21, who is assessed to be "at-risk" for developing a SUD will be eligible for Early Intervention services if they do not meet medical necessity criteria.~~
- ~~You must meet the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) definition of medical necessity for services based on the ASAM Criteria (ASAM Criteria are national treatment standards for addictive and substance-related conditions).~~

~~You don't need to know if you have a diagnosis to ask for help. Your county DMC-ODS plan will help you get this information and will determine medical necessity with an assessment.~~

~~County Specific Information~~

~~**[County to insert specific information – if any]*~~

SELECTING A PROVIDER

How Do I Find A Provider For The Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services I Need?

The County Plan may put some limits on your choice of providers. Your county DMC-ODS plan must give you a chance to choose between at least two providers when you first start services, unless the County Plan has a good reason why it can't provide a choice., For example, there is only one provider who can deliver the service you need. Your County Plan must also allow you to change providers. When you ask to change providers, the county must allow you to choose between at least two providers, unless there is a good reason not to do so.

Your county is required to post a current provider directory online. If you have questions about current providers or would like an updated provider directory, visit your county website *[County to Insert Link to Provider Directory] or call the county's toll-free phone number. A current provider directory is available electronically on the county's website, or in paper form upon request.

Sometimes county contract providers leave the county network on their own or at the request of the County Plan. When this happens, the County Plan must make a good faith effort to give written notice of termination of a county contracted provider within 15 days after receipt or issuance of the termination notice, to each person who was receiving SUD treatment services from the provider.

American Indian and Alaska Native individuals who are eligible for Medi-Cal and reside in counties that have opted into the DMC-ODS, can also receive DMC-ODS services through Indian Health Care Providers (IHCPs) that have the necessary DMC certification.

Once I Find A Provider, Can The County Plan Tell The Provider What Services I Get?

You, your provider, and the County Plan are all involved in deciding what services you need to receive through the county by following the ~~medical necessity~~ **access** criteria ~~and the list of covered~~ **for DMC-ODS** services. Sometimes the county will leave the decision to you and the provider. Other times, the County Plan may require your provider to ask the County Plan to review the reasons the provider thinks you need a service before the service is provided. The County Plan must use a qualified professional to do the review. This review process is called a plan ~~payment~~ authorization process. **Prior authorization for services is not required except for residential and inpatient services (excluding withdrawal management services).**

The County Plan's authorization process must follow specific timelines. For a standard authorization, the plan must make a decision on your provider's request within 14 calendar days. If you or your provider request, or if the County Plan thinks it is in your interest to get more information from your provider, the timeline can be extended for up to another 14 calendar days. An example of when an extension might be in your interest is when the county thinks it might be able to approve your provider's request for authorization if the County Plan had additional information from your provider and would have to deny the request without the information. If the County Plan extends the timeline, the county will send you a written notice about the extension.

If the county doesn't make a decision within the timeline required for a standard or an expedited authorization request, the County Plan must send you a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination telling you that the services are denied and that you may file an appeal or ask for a State Fair Hearing.

You may ask the County Plan for more information about its authorization process. Check the front section of this handbook to see how to request the information.

If you don't agree with the County Plan's decision on an authorization process, you may file an appeal with the county or ask for a State Fair Hearing.

Which Providers Does My DMC-ODS Plan Use?

If you are new to the County Plan, a complete list of providers in your County Plan can be found at the end of this handbook and contains information about where providers are located, the SUD treatment services they provide, and other information to help you access care, including information about the cultural and language services that are available from the providers. If you have questions about providers, call your county toll-free phone number located in the front section of this handbook.

**Additional County Specific Information

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

NOTICE OF ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION

What Is A Notice Of Adverse Benefit Determination?

A Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination, sometimes called a NOABD, is a form that your county DMC-ODS plan uses to tell you when the plan makes a decision about whether or not you will get Medi-Cal SUD treatment services. A Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination is also used to tell you if your grievance, appeal, or expedited appeal was not resolved in time, or if you didn't get services within the County Plan's timeline standards for providing services.

When Will I Get A Notice Of Adverse Benefit Determination?

You will get a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination:

- If your County Plan or one of the County Plan providers decides that you do not qualify to receive any Medi-Cal SUD treatment services because you do not meet the medical necessity criteria.
- If your provider thinks you need a SUD service and asks the County Plan for approval, but the County Plan does not agree and denies your provider's request, **the County Plan denies payment, the County Plan denies your request to dispute your cost-sharing,** or **the County Plan** changes the type or frequency of service. Most of the time you will receive a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination before you receive the service, but sometimes the Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination will come after you already received the service, or while you are receiving the service. If you get a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination after you have already received the service you do not have to pay for the service.
- If your provider has asked the County Plan for approval, but the County Plan needs more information to make a decision and doesn't complete the approval process on time.

- If your County Plan does not provide services to you based on the timelines the County Plan has set up. ~~Call your County Plan to find out if the County Plan has set up timeline standards.~~
- If you file a grievance with the County Plan and the County Plan does not get back to you with a written decision on your grievance within 90 calendar days. If you file an appeal with the County Plan and the County Plan does not get back to you with a written decision on your appeal within 30 calendar days or, if you filed an expedited appeal, and did not receive a response within 72 hours.

Will I Always Get A Notice Of Adverse Benefit Determination When I Don't Get The Services I Want?

There are some cases where you may not receive a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination. You may still file an appeal with the County Plan or if you have completed the appeal process, you can request a state fair hearing when these things happen. Information on how to file an appeal or request a fair hearing is included in this handbook. Information should also be available in your provider's office.

What Will The Notice Of Adverse Benefit Determination Tell Me?

The Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination will tell you:

- What your County Plan did that affects you and your ability to get services.
- The effective date of the decision and the reason the plan made its decision.
- The state or federal rules the county was following when it made the decision.
- What your rights are if you do not agree with what the plan did.
- How to file an appeal with the plan.
- How to request a State Fair Hearing.
- How to request an expedited appeal or an expedited fair hearing.
- How to get help filing an appeal or requesting a State Fair Hearing.
- How long you have to file an appeal or request a State Fair Hearing.
- ~~If you are eligible~~ **Your right** to continue to receive services while you wait for an Appeal or State Fair Hearing decision, **how to request for continuation of

these services, and whether the costs of these services will be covered by Medi-Cal.**

- When you have to file your Appeal or State Fair Hearing request if you want the services to continue.

What Should I Do When I Get A Notice Of Adverse Benefit Determination?

When you get a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination you should read all the information on the form carefully. If you don't understand the form, your County Plan can help you. You may also ask another person to help you.

You can request a continuation of the service that has been discontinued when you submit an appeal or a request for State Fair Hearing. You must request the continuation of services no later than 10 calendar days after the date the Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination was post-marked or personally given to you, or before the effective date of the change.

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

PROBLEM RESOLUTION PROCESSES

What If I Don't Get The Services I Want From My County DMC-ODS Plan?

Your County Plan has a way for you to work out a problem about any issue related to the SUD treatment services you are receiving. This is called the problem resolution process and it could involve the following processes.

1. **The Grievance Process** – an expression of unhappiness about anything regarding your SUD treatment services, other than an Adverse Benefit Determination.
2. **The Appeal Process** – review of a decision (denial or changes to services) that was made about your SUD treatment services by the County Plan or your provider.
3. **The State Fair Hearing Process** – review to make sure you receive the SUD treatment services which you are entitled to under the Medi-Cal program.

Filing a grievance or appeal, or a State Fair Hearing will not count against you and will not impact the services you are receiving. When your grievance or appeal is complete, your County Plan will notify you and others involved of the final outcome. When your State Fair Hearing is complete, the State Hearing Office will notify you and others involved of the final outcome.

Learn more about each problem resolution process below.

Can I Get Help To File An Appeal, Grievance Or State Fair Hearing?

Your County Plan will have people available to explain these processes to you and to help you report a problem either as a grievance, an appeal, or as a request for State Fair Hearing. They may also help you decide if you qualify for what's called an 'expedited' process, which means it will be reviewed more quickly because your health or stability are at risk. You may also authorize another person to act on your behalf, including your SUD treatment provider.

Call your MHP toll-free at *[*1-XXX-XXX-XXXX*] or online at *[MHP URL]. *[MHP Name] is available *[Days and Hours of Operation].

If you would like help, call *[County to Insert Toll-Free Phone Number].

What If I Need Help To Solve A Problem With My County DMC-ODS Plan But Don't Want To File A Grievance Or Appeal?

You can get help from the State if you are having trouble finding the right people at the county to help you find your way through the system.

You may contact the Department of Health Care Services, Office of the Ombudsman, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding holidays), by phone at **888-452-8609 or by e-mail at MMCDOmbudsmanOffice@dhcs.ca.gov. **Please note:** E-mail messages are not considered confidential. You should not include personal information in an e-mail message.**

You may get free legal help at your local legal aid office or other groups. You can ask about your hearing rights or free legal aid from the Public Inquiry and Response Unit:

Call Toll Free: **1-800-952-5253**

If you are deaf and use TDD, call: **1-800-952-8349**

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS

What Is A Grievance?

A grievance is an expression of unhappiness about anything regarding your SUD treatment services that are not one of the problems covered by the appeal and State Fair Hearing processes.

The grievance process will:

- Involve simple, and easily understood procedures that allow you to present your grievance orally or in writing.
- Not count against you or your provider in any way.
- Allow you to authorize another person to act on your behalf, including a provider. If you authorize another person to act on your behalf, the County Plan might ask you to sign a form authorizing the plan to release information to that person.
- Ensure that the individuals making the decisions are qualified to do so and not involved in any previous levels of review or decision-making.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of you, your County Plan and your provider.
- Provide resolution for the grievance in the required timeframes.

When Can I File A Grievance?

You can file a grievance with the County Plan at any time if you are unhappy with the SUD treatment services you are receiving from the County Plan or have another concern regarding the County Plan.

How Can I File A Grievance?

You may call your County Plan's toll-free phone number to get help with a grievance. The county will provide self-addressed envelopes at all the providers' sites for you to mail in your grievance. Grievances can be filed orally or in writing. Oral grievances do not have to be followed up in writing.

How Do I Know If The County Plan Received My Grievance?

Your County Plan will let you know that it received your grievance by sending you a written confirmation.

When Will My Grievance Be Decided?

The County Plan must make a decision about your grievance within 90 calendar days from the date you filed your grievance. Timeframes may be extended by up to 14 calendar days if you request an extension, or if the County Plan believes that there is a need for additional information and that the delay is for your benefit. An example of when a delay might be for your benefit is when the county believes it might be able to resolve your grievance if the County Plan had a little more time to get information from you or other people involved.

How Do I Know If The County Plan Has Made A Decision About My Grievance?

When a decision has been made regarding your grievance, the County Plan will notify you or your representative in writing of the decision. If your County Plan fails to notify you or any affected parties of the grievance decision on time, then the County Plan will provide you with a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination advising you of your right to request a State Fair Hearing. Your County Plan will provide you with a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination on the date the timeframe expires.

Is There A Deadline To File A Grievance?

You may file a grievance at any time.

**Additional County Specific Information

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

THE APPEAL PROCESS (Standard and Expedited)

Your County Plan is responsible for allowing you to request a review of a decision that was made about your SUD treatment services by the plan or your providers. There are two ways you can request a review. One way is using the standard appeals process. The second way is by using the expedited appeals process. These two ~~forms~~ **types** of appeals are similar; however, there are specific requirements to qualify for an expedited appeal. The specific requirements are explained below.

What Is A Standard Appeal?

A standard appeal is a request for review of a problem you have with the plan or your provider that involves a denial or changes to services you think you need. If you request a standard appeal, the County Plan may take up to 30 calendar days to review it. If you think waiting 30 calendar days will put your health at risk, you should ask for an 'expedited appeal.'

The standard appeals process will:

- Allow you to file an appeal in person, on the phone, or in writing. If you submit your appeal in person or on the phone, you must follow it up with a signed written appeal. You can get help to write the appeal. If you do not follow-up with a signed written appeal, your appeal will not be resolved. However, the date that you submitted the oral appeal is the filing date.
- Ensure filing an appeal will not count against you or your provider in any way.
- Allow you to authorize another person to act on your behalf, including a provider. If you authorize another person to act on your behalf, the plan might ask you to sign a form authorizing the plan to release information to that person.
- Have your benefits continued upon request for an appeal within the required timeframe, which is 10 calendar days from the date your Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination was post-marked or personally given to you. You do not have to pay for continued services while the appeal is pending. If you do request

continuation of the benefit, and the final decision of the appeal confirms the decision to reduce or discontinue the service you are receiving, you may be required to pay the cost of services furnished while the appeal was pending;

- Ensure that the individuals making the decisions are qualified to do so and not involved in any previous level of review or decision-making.
- Allow you or your representative to examine your case file, including your medical record, and any other documents or records considered during the appeal process, before and during the appeal process.
- Allow you to have a reasonable opportunity to present evidence and allegations of fact or law, in person or in writing.
- Allow you, your representative, or the legal representative of a deceased member's estate to be included as parties to the appeal.
- Let you know your appeal is being reviewed by sending you written confirmation.
- Inform you of your right to request a State Fair Hearing, following the completion of the appeal process.

When Can I File An Appeal?

You can file an appeal with your county DMC-ODS Plan:

- If your county or one of the county contracted providers decides that you do not qualify to receive any Medi-Cal SUD treatment services because you do not meet the medical necessity criteria.
- If your provider thinks you need a SUD treatment service and asks the county for approval, but the county does not agree and denies your provider's request, or changes the type or frequency of service.
- If your provider has asked the County Plan for approval, but the county needs more information to make a decision and doesn't complete the approval process on time.
- If your County Plan doesn't provide services to you based on the timelines the County Plan has set up.

- If you don't think the County Plan is providing services soon enough to meet your needs.
- If your grievance, appeal or expedited appeal wasn't resolved in time.
- If you and your provider do not agree on the SUD services you need.

How Can I File An Appeal?

You may call your County Plan's toll-free phone number to get help with filing an appeal. The plan will provide self-addressed envelopes at all provider sites for you to mail in your appeal. **Appeals can be filed orally or in writing. If you submit your appeal orally, you must follow it up with a signed written appeal.**

How Do I Know If My Appeal Has Been Decided?

Your county DMC-ODS plan will notify you or your representative in writing about their decision for your appeal. The notification will have the following information:

- The results of the appeal resolution process.
- The date the appeal decision was made.
- If the appeal is not resolved wholly in your favor, the notice will also contain information regarding your right to a State Fair Hearing and the procedure for filing a State Fair Hearing.

Is There A Deadline To File An Appeal?

You must file an appeal within 60 calendar days of the date on the Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination. Keep in mind that you will not always get a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination. There are no deadlines for filing an appeal when you do not get a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination; so you may file this type of appeal at any time.

When Will A Decision Be Made About My Appeal?

The County Plan must decide on your appeal within 30 calendar days from when the County Plan receives your request for the appeal. Timeframes may be extended by up to 14 calendar days if you request an extension, or if the County Plan believes that there is a need for additional information and that the delay is for your benefit. An example of when a delay is for your benefit is when the county believes it might be able to approve your appeal if the County Plan had a little more time to get information from you or your provider.

What If I Can't Wait 30 Days For My Appeal Decision?

The appeal process may be faster if it qualifies for the expedited appeals process.

What Is An Expedited Appeal?

An expedited appeal is a faster way to decide an appeal. The expedited appeals process follows a similar process to the standard appeals process. However,

- Your appeal must meet certain requirements.
- The expedited appeals process also follows different deadlines than the standard appeals.
- You can make a verbal request for an expedited appeal. You do not have to put your expedited appeal request in writing.

When Can I File An Expedited Appeal?

If you think that waiting up to 30 calendar days for a standard appeal decision will jeopardize your life, health or ability to attain, maintain or regain maximum function, you may request an expedited resolution of an appeal. If the County Plan agrees that your appeal meets the requirements for an expedited appeal, your county will resolve your expedited appeal within 72 hours after the County Plan receives the appeal. Timeframes may be extended by up to 14 calendar days if you request an extension, or if the County Plan shows that there is a need for additional information and that the

delay is in your interest. If your County Plan extends the timeframes, the plan will give you a written explanation as to why the timeframes were extended.

If the County Plan decides that your appeal does not qualify for an expedited appeal, the County Plan must make reasonable efforts to give you prompt oral notice and will notify you in writing within 2 calendar days giving you the reason for the decision. Your appeal will then follow the standard appeal timeframes outlined earlier in this section. If you disagree with the county's decision that your appeal doesn't meet the expedited appeal criteria, you may file a grievance.

Once your County Plan resolves your expedited appeal, the plan will notify you and all affected parties orally and in writing.

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

THE STATE FAIR HEARING PROCESS

What Is A State Fair Hearing?

A State Fair Hearing is an independent review conducted by the California Department of Social Services to ensure you receive the SUD treatment services to which you are entitled under the Medi-Cal program. **You may also visit the California Department of Social Services at https://www.cdss.ca.gov/hearing-requests for additional resources.**

What Are My State Fair Hearing Rights?

You have the right to:

- Have a hearing before the California Department of Social Services (also called a State Fair Hearing).
- Be told about how to ask for a State Fair Hearing.
- Be told about the rules that govern representation at the State Fair Hearing.
- Have your benefits continued upon your request during the State Fair Hearing process if you ask for a State Fair Hearing within the required timeframes.

When Can I File For A State Fair Hearing?

You can file for a State Fair Hearing:

- If you have completed the County Plan's appeal process.
- If your county or one of the county contracted providers decides that you do not qualify to receive any Medi-Cal SUD treatment services because you do not meet the medical necessity criteria.
- If your provider thinks you need a SUD treatment service and asks the County Plan for approval, but the County Plan does not agree and denies your provider's request, or changes the type or frequency of service.
- If your provider has asked the County Plan for approval, but the county needs more information to make a decision and doesn't complete the approval process on time.

- If your County Plan doesn't provide services to you based on the timelines the county has set up.
- If you don't think the County Plan is providing services soon enough to meet your needs.
- If your grievance, appeal or expedited appeal wasn't resolved in time.
- If you and your provider do not agree on the SUD treatment services you need.
- **If your grievance, appeal, or expedited appeal wasn't resolved in time.**

How Do I Request A State Fair Hearing?

**You can request a State Hearing:

- Online at: https://acms.dss.ca.gov/acms/login.request.do

- In Writing: Submit your request to the county welfare department at the address shown on the Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination, or by fax or mail to:

  California Department of Social Services State Hearings Division
  P.O. Box 944243, Mail Station 9-17-37
  Sacramento, CA 94244-2430

  Or by Fax to **916-651-5210** or **916-651-2789**.**

You can also request a State Hearing or an expedited State Hearing:

- By phone: Call the State Hearings Division, toll free, at **800-743-8525** or **855-795-0634**, or call the Public Inquiry and Response line, toll free, at **800-952-5253** or TDD **800-**952-8349**.**

~~You can request a State Fair Hearing directly from the California Department of Social Services. You can ask for a State Fair Hearing by writing to:~~

~~*State Hearings Division*~~
~~*California Department of Social Services*~~
~~*744 P Street, Mail Station 9-17-37*~~
~~*Sacramento, California 95814*~~

~~You can also call 1-800-952-8349 or for TDD 1-800-952-8349.~~

Is There A Deadline For Filing For A State Fair Hearing?

You only have 120 calendar days to ask for a State Fair Hearing. The 120 days start either the day after the County Plan personally gave you its appeal decision notice, or the day after the postmark date of the county appeal decision notice.

If you didn't receive a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination, you may file for a State Fair Hearing at any time.

Can I Continue Services While I'm Waiting For A State Fair Hearing Decision?

Yes, if you are currently receiving treatment and you want to continue your treatment while you appeal, you must ask for a State Fair Hearing within 10 days from the date the appeal decision notice was postmarked or delivered to you OR before the date your County Plan says services will be stopped or reduced. When you ask for a State Fair Hearing, you must say that you want to keep receiving your treatment. Additionally, you will not have to pay for services received while the State Fair Hearing is pending.

If you do request continuation of the benefit, and the final decision of the State Fair Hearing confirms the decision to reduce or discontinue the service you are receiving, you may be required to pay the cost of services furnished while the state fair hearing was pending.

When Will a Decision Be Made About My State Hearing Decision?

After you ask for a State Hearing, it could take up to 90 days to decide your case and send you an answer.

What If I Can't Wait 90 Days For My State Fair Hearing Decision?

**If you think waiting that long will be harmful to your health, you might be able to get an answer within three working days. Ask your doctor or other provider to write a letter for you. You can also write a letter yourself. The letter must explain in detail how waiting for

up to 90 days for your case to be decided will seriously harm your life, your health, or your ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function. Then, make sure you ask for an “expedited hearing” and provide the letter with your request for a hearing.**

You may ask for an expedited (quicker) State Fair Hearing if you think the normal 90-calendar day time frame will cause serious problems with your health, including problems with your ability to gain, maintain, or regain important life functions. The Department of Social Services, State Hearings Division, will review your request for an expedited State Fair Hearing and decide if it qualifies. If your expedited hearing request is approved, a hearing will be held and a hearing decision will be issued within 3 working days of the date your request is received by the State Hearings Division.

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDI-CAL PROGRAM

Who Can Get Medi-Cal?

You may qualify for Medi-Cal if you are in one of these groups:

- 65 years old, or older
- Under 21 years of age
- An adult, between 21 and 65 based on income eligibility
- Blind or disabled
- Pregnant
- Certain refugees, or Cuban/Haitian immigrants
- Receiving care in a nursing home
- **Individuals under the age of 26, or over the age of 50 regardless of immigration status**

You must be living in California to qualify for Medi-Cal. Call or visit your local county social services office to ask for a Medi-Cal application, or get one on the Internet at https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/ApplyforMedi-Cal.aspx.

Do I Have To Pay For Medi-Cal?

You may have to pay for Medi-Cal depending on the amount of money you get or earn each month.

- If your income is less than Medi-Cal limits for your family size, you will not have to pay for Medi-Cal services.
- If your income is more than Medi-Cal limits for your family size, you will have to pay some money for your medical or SUD treatment services. The amount that you pay is called your 'share of cost.' Once you have paid your 'share of cost,' Medi-Cal will pay the rest of your covered medical bills for that month. In the months that you don't have medical expenses, you don't have to pay anything.

- You may have to pay a ‘co-payment’ for any treatment under Medi-Cal. This means you pay an out of pocket amount each time you get a medical or SUD treatment service or a prescribed drug (medicine) and a co-payment if you go to a hospital emergency room for your regular services.

Your provider will tell you if you need to make a co-payment.

Does Medi-Cal Cover Transportation?

If you have trouble getting to your medical appointments or drug and alcohol treatment appointments, the Medi-Cal program can help you find transportation.

- For children, the county Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program can help. You may also wish to contact your county social services office. *[County to Insert Phone Numbers for Local Social Services Offices.] You can also get information online by visiting www.dhcs.ca.gov, then clicking on ‘Services’ and then ‘Medi-Cal.’
- For adults, your county social services office can help. *[County to Insert Phone Numbers for Local Social Services Offices.] Or you can get information online by visiting www.dhcs.ca.gov, then clicking on ‘Services’ and then ‘Medi-Cal.’
- If you are enrolled with a Medi-Cal ~~Managed Care Plan (~~MCP, the MCP is required to assist with transportation according to Section 14132 (ad) of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Transportation services are available for all service needs, including those that are not included in the DMC-ODS program.

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE

What is an Advance Directive?

You have the right to have an advance directive. An advance directive is written instruction about your health care that is recognized under California law. It includes information that states how you would like health care provided, or says what decisions you would like to be made, if or when you are unable to speak for yourself. You may sometimes hear an advance directive described as a living will or durable power of attorney.

California law defines an advance directive as either an oral or written individual healthcare instruction or a power of attorney (a written document giving someone permissionto make decisions for you). All County Plans are required to have advance directive policies inplace. Your County Plan is required to provide written information on the County Plan's advance directive policies and an explanation of state law, if asked for the information. If you would like to request the information, you should call your County Plan for more information.

**An advance directive is designed to allow people to have control over their own treatment, especially when they are unable to provide instructions about their own care. It is a legal document that allows people to say, in advance, what their wishes would be,if they become unable to make health care decisions. This may include such things as the right to accept or refuse medical treatment, surgery, or make other health care choices. In California, an advance directive consists of two parts:

- Your appointment of an agent (a person) making decisions about your healthcare; and
- Your individual health care instructions**

You may get a form for an advance directive from your mental health plan or online. In California, you have the right to provide advance directive instructions to all of your health care providers. You also have the right to change or cancel your advance directive at any time.

**If you have a question about California law regarding advance directive requirements, you may send a letter to:

California Department of Justice
Attn: Public Inquiry Unit,
P. O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550**

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

MEMBER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

What Are My Rights As A Recipient Of DMC-ODS Services?

As a person eligible for Medi-Cal and residing in a DMC-ODS ~~pilot~~ program county, you have a right to receive medically necessary SUD treatment services from the County Plan. You have the right to:

- Be treated with respect, giving due consideration to your right to privacy and the need to maintain confidentiality of your medical information.
- Receive information on available treatment options and alternatives, presented in a manner appropriate to the Member's condition and ability to understand.
- Participate in decisions regarding your SUD care, including the right to refuse treatment.
- Receive timely access to care, including services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, when medically necessary to treat an emergency condition or an urgent or crisis condition.
- Receive the information in this handbook about the SUD treatment services covered by the county DMC-ODS plan, other obligations of the County Plan and your rights as described here.
- Have your confidential health information protected.
- Request and receive a copy of your medical records, and request that they be amended or corrected as specified in 45 CFR §164.524 and 164.526.
- Receive written materials in alternative formats (including Braille, large size print, and audio format) upon request and in a timely fashion appropriate for the format being requested.
- **Receive written materials in the languages used by at least five percent or 3,000 of your County Plan's beneficiaries, whichever is less.**
- Receive oral interpretation services for your preferred language.
- Receive SUD treatment services from a County Plan that follows the requirements of its contract with the State in the areas of availability of services,

assurances of adequate capacity and services, coordination and continuity of care, and coverage and authorization of services.

- Access Minor Consent Services, if you are a minor.
- Access medically necessary services out-of-network in a timely manner, if the plan doesn't have an employee or contract provider who can deliver the services. "Out-of-network provider" means a provider who is not on the County Plan's list of providers. The county must make sure you don't pay anything extra for seeing an out-of-network provider. You can contact member services at *[County to Insert Toll-Free Phone Number] for information on how to receive services from an out-of-network provider.
- Request a second opinion from a qualified health care professional within the county network, or one outside the network, at no additional cost to you.
- File grievances, either verbally or in writing, about the organization or the care received.
- Request an appeal, either verbally or in writing, upon receipt of a notice of adverse benefit determination, **including information on the circumstances under which an expedited appeal is possible.**
- Request a State Medi-Cal fair hearing, including information on the circumstances under which an expedited fair hearing is possible.
- Be free from any form of restraint or seclusion used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation.
- Be free to exercise these rights without adversely affecting how you are treated by the County Plan, providers, or the State.

What Are My Responsibilities As A Recipient Of DMC-ODS Services?

As a recipient of a DMC-ODS service, it is your responsibility to:

- Carefully read the member informing materials that you have received from the County Plan. These materials will help you understand which services are available and how to get treatment if you need it.

- Attend your treatment as scheduled. You will have the best result if you ~~follow your treatment plan~~ **collaborate with your provider throughout your treatment.** If you do need to miss an appointment, call your provider at least 24 hours in advance and reschedule for another day and time.
- Always carry your Medi-Cal (County Plan) ID card and a photo ID when you attend treatment.
- Let your provider know if you need an interpreter before your appointment.
- Tell your provider all your medical concerns ~~in order for your plan to be accurate~~. The more complete information that you share about your needs, the more successful your treatment will be.
- Make sure to ask your provider any questions that you have. It is very important you completely understand ~~your treatment plan and~~ any ~~other~~ information that you receive during treatment.
- ~~Follow the treatment plan you and your provider have agreed upon.~~
- Be willing to build a strong working relationship with the provider that is treating you.
- Contact the County Plan if you have any questions about your services or if you have any problems with your provider that you are unable to resolve.
- Tell your provider and the County Plan if you have any changes to your personal information. This includes address, phone number, and any other medical information that can affect your ability to participate in treatment.
- Treat the staff who provide your treatment with respect and courtesy.
- If you suspect fraud or wrongdoing, report it.
  *[County to Insert Phone Number and Process to Report Abuse and Fraud].

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**

~~PROVIDER DIRECTORY~~

~~*[county to insert provider directory. Must include the following:~~

~~1) Include information on the category or categories of services available from each provider;~~

~~2) Contain the names, locations, and telephone numbers of current contracted providers by category;~~

~~3) Identify options for services in languages other than English and services that are designed to address cultural differences and;~~

~~4) Provide a means by which a beneficiary can identify which providers are not accepting new beneficiaries.]~~

TRANSITION OF CARE REQUEST

When can I request to keep my previous, and now out-of-network, provider?

- After joining the County Plan, you may request to keep your out-of-network provider if:
    - Moving to a new provider would result in a serious detriment to your health or would increase your risk of hospitalization or institutionalization; and
    - You were receiving treatment from the out-of-network provider prior to the date of your transition to the County Plan.

How do I request to keep my out-of-network provider?

- You, your authorized representatives, or your current provider, may submit a request in writing to the County Plan. You can also contact member services at *[County to Insert Toll-Free Phone Number] for information on how to request services from an out-of-network provider.
- The County Plan will send written acknowledgement of receipt of your request and begin to process your request within three (3) working days.

What if I continued to see my out-of-network provider after transitioning to the County Plan?

- You may request a retroactive transition of care request within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving services from an out-of-network provider.

Why would the County Plan deny my transition of care request?

- The County Plan may deny a your request to retain your previous, and now out-of-network, provider, if:
    - The County Plan has documented quality of care issues with the provider.

What happens if my transition of care request is denied?

- If the County Plan denies your transition of care it will:
    - Notify you in writing;
    - Offer you at least one in-network alternative provider that offers the same level of services as the out-of-network provider; and
    - Inform you of your right to file a grievance if you disagree with the denial.
- If the County Plan offers you multiple in-network provider alternatives and you do not make a choice, then the County Plan will refer or assign you to an in-network provider and notify you of that referral or assignment in writing.

What happens if my transition of care request is approved?

- Within seven (7) days of approving your transition of care request the County Plan will provide you with:
    - The request approval;
    - The duration of the transition of care arrangement;
    - The process that will occur to transition your care at the end of the continuity of care period; and
    - Your right to choose a different provider from the County Plan's provider network at anytime.

How quickly will my transition of care request be processed?

- The County Plan will complete its review of your transition of care request within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the County Plan received your request.

What happens at the end of my transition of care period?

- The County Plan will notify you in writing thirty (30) calendar days before the end of the transition of care period about the process that will occur to transition your care to an in-network provider at the end of your transition of care period.

****Additional County Specific Information**

Insert County specific information here [if any].**