



Title 22 Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Requirements for Physical Examinations at Intake

Fact Sheet
April 2017

Based on 22 CCR § 51341.1(h)(1)(A)(iv), the physician, a registered nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant may perform a physical examination of the beneficiary within thirty (30) calendar days of the beneficiary's admission to treatment date.

A physical exam performed by staff lawfully authorized to provide such service is reimbursable, based on the following:

Intake

Title 22 defines intake as the process of admitting a beneficiary into a substance use disorder treatment program. Intake includes the evaluation or analysis of the cause or nature of mental, emotional, psychological, behavioral, and substance use disorders; the diagnosis of substance use disorders utilizing the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Disorders; and the assessment of treatment needs to provide medically necessary treatment services by a physician. Intake may include a physical examination and laboratory testing conducted by staff lawfully authorized to provide such services and/or laboratory testing within the scope of their practice or licensure.¹

Drug Medi-Cal substance use disorder services shall include the following:

ODF Services

Outpatient drug free treatment services include admission physical examinations, intake, medical direction, medication services, body specimen screens, treatment and discharge planning, crisis intervention, collateral services, group counseling, and individual counseling.²

Furthermore, individual counseling shall be limited to intake, crisis intervention, collateral services, and treatment and discharge planning.³

A physical examination may be billed as an individual session.

¹ 22 CCR § 51341.1(b)(13)

² 22 CCR § 51341.1(d)(2)

³ 22 CCR § 51341.1(d)(2)(B)

IOT Services

Intensive outpatient treatment services include intake, admission physical examinations, medical direction, treatment and discharge planning, individual and group counseling, body specimen screening, medication services, collateral services, and crisis intervention.⁴

A physical examination may be combined with other qualifying IOT services, and billed for if a total of three (3) hours of service is provided on that day.

Perinatal Residential Services

Perinatal residential services include intake, admission physical examinations and laboratory testing, medical direction, treatment and discharge planning, individual and group counseling services, parenting education, body specimen screening, medication services, collateral services, and crisis intervention.⁵

A physical examination is an allowable perinatal residential service and may be billed accordingly.

For Additional Information or Clarification on 22 CCR § 51341.1 Requirements –

- Visit [California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 51341.1](#)
- Submit questions to DMC Answers via the [DMC Answers Form](#)

⁴ 22 CCR § 51341.1(d)(3)

⁵ 22 CCR § 51341.1(d)(4)