

Information Sharing

Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System
Court-Ordered Residential Treatment
Follow-up Communication to BHS 2018-005

June 12, 2018

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Providers:

This information sharing notice BHS 2018-006 is the follow up communication to [BHS 2018-005](#) dated May 17, 2018 whereby Substance Use Disorder (SUD) program providers were informed about court-ordered residential treatment referrals received from the justice system. [BHS 2018-005](#) is available on the Optum website at <https://www.optumsandiego.com/content/sandiego/en/county-staff--providers/dmc-ods.html>.

Transition Period: Identifying Court-Ordered Clients

In preparation for Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) implementation, begin to identify which of your currently enrolled clients are court-ordered to residential treatment. For clients already in residential treatment prior to July 1, 2018, a probation officer's referral should be viewed the same way as a court order. To determine if the client is court-ordered, follow these steps until you are able to confirm the referral source:

1. Check the client's file for a Release of Information (ROI) which should indicate if the client was referred by the Probation Department or by the Public Defender's Substance Abuse Assessor's Unit (SAAU).
2. If you cannot locate the referral source in the client's file, ask the client to show you their court order.
3. If the client does not have their court order, check the Community Resource Directory (CRD) to see if a probation officer referred the client to your program.
4. If the referral cannot be located in the CRD and the client does not know who referred them, have the client sign a ROI and then contact the Probation Department at 619-515-8202 or the Public Defender's SAUA at 619-338-4825 to verify if the client was court-ordered to residential treatment.

The County Probation Department and Behavioral Health Services (BHS) are working together to align current probation procedures with the new DMC-ODS referral pathways. Further clarification on this is forthcoming.

Collaboration with Probation and Outpatient Providers to Coordinate Care Transitions:

BHS is not setting a time limit to court-ordered residential treatment at this time; however, providers would need to track and document all clients ASAM-assessed at lower level of care than residential. Effective immediately, providers are asked to collaborate with probation officers regarding these clients. Please open the dialog with the assigned probation officer about the adequate level of care based on the ASAM assessment and all other information the provider has available. Discuss a treatment plan with the probation officer, which may include the provider facilitating a client transition to a lower level of care, and obtain the probation officer's agreement before transitioning court ordered clients. Continue client-centered communication with probation officers about ongoing or new level of care recommendations, and the value of for clients of ongoing treatment through outpatient levels of care. If a treatment plan includes a lower level of care, avoid using the term "treatment completion," and express commitment to facilitate a warm hand-off to an outpatient program. Work to develop relationships with outpatient programs so that clients can be linked to recovery residences quickly and the linkages can be timed with care transition.

Services and Billing for Court-Ordered Residential Treatment Clients:

As the County transitions into DMC-ODS, collaboration between BHS and Justice Partners will be closely monitored and adjustments will likely be made. During the transition period, County staff will be reviewing mismatched level of care data to inform how to best proceed after the transition period. Further information on this is forthcoming in August 2018. In the meantime, clients who are court-ordered currently and in a residential treatment program, and are reassessed as requiring a lower level of care (aka "justice override"), shall receive the same residential treatment services as appropriately-matched clients. These services would be reimbursed at the same rates. Aside from following ASAM level of care determination, all other elements of treatment should meet the County's DMC-ODS standards of care.

SanWITs:

Services provided to court-ordered residential treatment clients are billable to the *County* at the same rate as DMC-billable services, as long as encounters are entered and all documentation standards are met.

Monthly Invoicing:

As previously communicated, providers would be reimbursed for these services. A *County-billable* cost center would be utilized to claim the cost of court-ordered clients who are ASAM-assessed at a lower level of care than residential treatment. A *DMC-billable* cost center would be utilized to claim the cost of court-ordered clients who are Medi-Cal beneficiaries and have been assessed to meet the residential treatment level of care.

Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) if you have any questions about this information sharing notice.

For more information about the DMC-ODS visit our website at www.sandiegocounty.gov/dmc. For all other inquiries or comments, email us at Info-DMC-ODS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov