



SAPC Provider Meeting

Highlights and Updates

August 10, 2021

Division of Substance Abuse
Prevention and Control (SAPC)





COVID-19 Updates





COVID-19 Situational Update

- **Cases in Los Angeles County**
 - Cases remain elevated despite some leveling off.
 - Most new cases are of the delta variant.
 - Cases continue to be largely concentrated among the unvaccinated.
- **Vaccinations in Los Angeles County**
 - Age 16+ with at least 1 dose: 5,982,437 (71.9%)
 - Age 65+ with at least 1 dose: 1,222,434 (89.0%)
 - Gaps persist among teens and young adults, Black adults, and Latino adults.
 - However, we are starting to see increases in vaccinations compared to previous weeks/months.
- **Vaccine Policies**
 - Some employers and businesses are beginning to implement stricter vaccination and/or testing policies.
 - Examples include CSU and UC university systems, CA State Gov't, LA County Gov't, LA City Gov't, etc.



COVID-19 Situational Update (cont.)

- [State Public Health Officer Order for Unvaccinated Workers In High-Risk Settings](#)
 - All health care workers (including those working in specialty SUD treatment settings) must be vaccinated.
 - Unvaccinated workers in:
 - Acute health care settings (e.g., inpatient withdrawal management) who receive vaccine exemptions must receive COVID testing **at least twice a week**.
 - Other SUD settings must receive COVID testing **at least once a week**.
 - Unvaccinated workers are not exempted from the testing requirements.
 - All facilities are required to maintain records of workers' vaccination or exemption status and COVID testing records for unvaccinated workers.
 - Behavioral health treatment settings, including SUD treatment facilities, are all specifically included in the order. Non-treatment providers (e.g., Prevention and DUI) have not clearly been specified in the order.



COVID-19 Situational Update (cont.)

- **Behavioral Health Information Notice No. [21-043](#)**: Requirements for COVID-19 Vaccination Verification, Testing and Masking for Behavioral Health Facility Workers and as updated by [State Public Health Order](#) on August 5, 2021.

Vaccinations

All workers (paid and unpaid) who provide services or work in identified facilities (in our case SUD ASAM 1.0, 2.1, 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 1-WM, 2-WM, 3.2-WM, 3.7-WM and 4-WM, and prevention staff working in or delivery services in such facilities) must be **FULLY VACCINATED WITH THE PFIZER, MODERNA, OR JOHNSON AND JOHNSON VACCINE FOR COVID-19 BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**.

Exemptions may be available with written declaration for (1) religious or (2) qualifying health condition reasons (with a written statement from an appropriate health care provider) with mandatory COVID-19 testing 2 times per week in acute health care and long-term care settings or 1 time per week in other health care settings AND use of a surgical mask or higher-level respirator in the facility at ALL times.

The Contractor must maintain records to this effect.

Masking

Masks are required for ALL individuals regardless of vaccination status in the following indoor settings:

- Healthcare settings (including SUD sites)
- State and local correctional facilities and detention centers
- Homeless shelters
- Long-Term Care Settings
- Adult and Senior Care Facilities



Treatment Perception Survey





2021 Treatment Perception Survey Administration

- **DHCS** official survey administration will take place:
 - **September 20-24, 2021**
- **SAPC**'s deadline for additional surveys, in particular for opioid treatment programs (your agency/facility reports will be based on the total surveys collected Sept 20 - Oct 15):
 - **October 15, 2021**
- TPS training is scheduled:
 - **September 3, 2021 at 9AM - 11AM**
 - Pre-programmed online survey links and pre-filled paper surveys will be distributed and discussed during the training.



SAPC Notices





SAPC Information Notice (IN) Updates

- IN [21-05](#): FY 21-22 Rates and Payment Policy Updates
- IN [21-01](#): COVID-19 Response - Discontinued and Replaced
- IN 21-06: COVID-19 Response – Discontinued all pandemic service accommodations except the following (see IN table for detail):
 - Expires 9/30/21: AOD certification 3-month extension
 - Expires 11/1/21: No modifier for telehealth/telephone claims
 - Expires 12/31/22: Assessments via telephone/telehealth
 - Expires 12/31/22: Group counseling via telephone/telehealth in RS/OP/DUI
 - Expires 12/31/22: Payment parity for telephone and telehealth services



SAPC Information Notice (IN) Updates-Continued

- DHCS NTP FAQ: COVID Response Updates 7/8/21
 - Expires 12/31/22: Initial evaluation, prescription and follow care of buprenorphine allowed by telehealth or telephone without an in-person medical evaluation. *Conditions apply, see FAQ.*
 - Expires 12/31/22: NTPs may dispense and DATA-waived practitioners may prescribe buprenorphine to new OUD patients following evaluation via telephone without prior in-person or telemedicine evaluation. *Conditions apply, see FAQ.* An In-person evaluation is still required for patients treated with methadone.
 - Expires 12/31/22: Payment parity for telephone and telehealth services

- Providers must verify Medi-Cal eligibility upon admission and at the beginning of every month the patient is actively receiving treatment.
- Providers must ensure patients who are eligible for Medi-Cal receive appropriate enrollment support and update Sage with status changes.
- Beginning **September 2021**, SAPC will be reviewing the following information monthly:
 - *County and Aid Code Report*: Info on patients for which the provider checked 270 in Sage
 - *Financial Eligibility for providers*: Used to confirm which patients have F.E. of “Applying for Medi-Cal” Guarantor and if billing has occurred under “Applying for Medi-Cal” which allows providers to track 30-day policy utilization. Additionally, includes CIN & county name from F.E.
 - *Medi-Cal Discrepancies Report*: Patients reported as Medi-Cal but not on State MEDS report.
- **Provider Expectations**: Review reports, correct any errors, use the case management benefit to ensure appropriate Medi-Cal acquisition and update financial eligibility where indicated.
- **SAPC Expectations**: Connect with providers/sites to provide technical assistance to support patient Medi-Cal enrollment and transfer.

Recovery Bridge Housing (RBH) – **Bed Increase**

- SAPC will survey current RBH providers to identify additional bed capacity to increase existing inventory.
- Email will be sent by **Friday, August 13th**. **Responses are DUE to SAPC via email by August 20th**.
- Reach out to your CPA if an email is not received by Friday, August 13th.





DHCS Information Notices





Peer Support Specialist Program: [21-041](#) and [21-045](#)

- **County Impact:** Determine when to opt-into inclusion of new services (H0025 Behavioral Health Prevention Education and H0038 Self-Help Peer Services) to be provided by certified peers specialist which are available as add-on DMC services. in OP/IOP/RSS and integrated into the rate for WM/RS.
 - **Provider Impact:** *Determine if/how you would like to incorporate certified peer specialist within your service model when this is launched by LAC and once the certification process has been finalized by CalMHSA which includes peer completion of the 80-hour training curriculum and passing the initial certification exam before service delivery AND 20 hours of continuing education every two years.*
 - SAPC is interested in your feedback about this new benefit and will provide more information on a forum to discuss this effort soon.
 - Additional information will be provided as it becomes available



Timely Submission of DMC-ODS Claims: [21-016](#)

- **County Impact:** DHCS has indicated they are likely to shorten the window in which counties can submit claims to DHCS without the claims being considered delayed. Six months is the current timeframe DHCS had preliminarily indicated DMC-ODS systems, and 12-months for specialty MH systems.
 - **Provider Impact:** SAPC providers will need to establish processes to ensure more timely submission of claims. SAPC will likely need at least two months to evaluate and process claims after submission by providers before it can submit the claims to DHCS. As such, if DHCS ends up holding DMC-ODS systems to six months, providers will likely have four months to submit claims.

THANK YOU!



Visit RecoverLA.org on your smart phone or tablet to learn more about SUD services and resources, including a mobile friendly version of the provider directory – SBAT!