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SAPC Information Notice 22-06
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March 31, 2022

TO: Los Angeles County Substance Use Disorder
Contracted Treatment Providers

FROM: Gary Tsai, M.D., Division Director 
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: COUNTY OF RESIDENCE MODEL

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control’s (SAPC) specialty substance use disorder (SUD) treatment benefit package is available at no-cost to eligible Medi-Cal, My Health LA, and other County-funded program (e.g., AB 109) participants who reside in Los Angeles County.

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE / RESPONSIBILITY

In accordance with State policy, the Los Angeles County specialty SUD benefit package follows a County of Residence model of service delivery. As such, individuals need to be a resident of Los Angeles County to receive services; this includes individuals residing here but transferring benefits from another State or county.

SAPC network providers that render SUD services to individuals who reside outside of Los Angeles County will not be reimbursed for services, except for: (1) Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) services/patients; and (2) Medi-Cal transfers as described herein. Network providers who intend to deliver services to non-County residents need to contract with the county where those beneficiaries reside to be reimbursed.

NETWORK PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

If a new referral patient does not reside in Los Angeles County and does not intend to move, they need to be referred to a provider in their county of residence. Similarly, if an existing patient moves out of Los Angeles County, they should be referred to a provider in their new county of residence. Providers should use the county of residence beneficiary access line to identify the appropriate provider, which is available at: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>.

In situations where the individual resides in Los Angeles County and the Medi-Cal benefits are assigned to another county, Network Providers **must not deny** the patient treatment services if they meet for medical necessity. Admission cannot be delayed or denied for eligible (e.g., Medi-Cal, My Health LA, AB 109) Los Angeles County residents due to an incomplete or pending application and/or while Medi-Cal benefits are assigned to another county.

It is the Network Provider's responsibility to facilitate the process of initiating, completing, transferring, or renewing Medi-Cal and My Health LA applications with potential and current patients using the Care Coordination benefit, as applicable, throughout the SUD treatment process. Under the "Pending Medi-Cal Enrollment and Transfer Allowance", providers may receive reimbursement for medically necessary SUD treatment services up to and not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days from the admission date, one time per patient, per fiscal year. This is intended to ensure that the SAPC treatment provider network does not deny admission and provision of SUD treatment services for patients presumed to meet the eligibility criteria for Medi-Cal.

The *Provider Manual for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services* includes additional guidance on claims reimbursement while a Medi-Cal or My Health LA application or transfer is pending.

OTP COURTESY DOSING

Beneficiaries Traveling outside of Los Angeles County

OTP patients who are Los Angeles County Medi-Cal beneficiaries and have traveled outside of the county for business or leisure, and who do not qualify for, or are unable to secure enough take-home doses for the trip duration, are eligible for courtesy dosing of methadone and buprenorphine for up to 30 days at a site located in their destination. Network Providers shall work with the visited provider and establish a courtesy dosing order which is signed by the medical director or program physician, and at minimum outlines the dose, duration, and any other special instructions, such as take-home doses. Compliance with relevant Title 9 regulations is required. These services must be entered into Sage, SAPC's electronic health record, with a documented note that services occurred at an out of county facility. The two providers are responsible for establishing and transferring payment.

Non-County Beneficiaries Traveling to Los Angeles

OTP patients who are Medi-Cal beneficiaries and have traveled to Los Angeles County for business or leisure, and who do not qualify for, or are unable to bring enough take-home doses for the trip duration, are eligible for SAPC reimbursed courtesy dosing of methadone and buprenorphine for up to 30 days. Network Providers must receive a courtesy dosing order from the home clinic which is signed by the medical director or program physician, and at minimum outlines the dose, duration, and any other special instructions, such as take-home doses. Compliance with relevant Title 9 regulations is required.

For claims to be approved, the invoice must include all information contained within the *Courtesy Dosing Reimbursement Form*, including the name and date of birth of the patient, Social Security Number, Medi-Cal CIN, County/State of residence, home clinic, dates of service, medication type, health care procedure coding system, amount billed, and courtesy dosing reason. Individuals receiving courtesy doses are not entered as new admissions into Sage and data collection is not required. Claims must be submitted after the last dose is administered or distributed to the patient, by completing the attached *Courtesy Dosing Reimbursement Form* and sending securely to cruiz@ph.lacounty.gov or via fax at (626) 299-7225 (Attention: DMC Unit).

For additional information related to this bulletin, please contact Yanira Lima, Systems of Care Branch, at ylima@ph.lacounty.gov or (626) 299-3202.

GT:mm