

Policy Title: Clinician Consultation

Policy: The Department of Behavioral Health shall contract with addiction medicine professionals to be made available to County of Fresno SUD contracted providers when needed to seek expert advice in treatment plan design for specific DMC-ODS persons served.

Purpose: Clinician consultation services are to support DMC providers with complex cases which may address medication selection, dosing, side effect management, adherence, drug-drug interactions, or level of care considerations.

Procedure: If a complex situation is encountered during the course of treatment of a Drug Medical eligible person served and additional assistance is required the service provider's LPHA may contact the Clinician Consultation Center to request advice on the following items:

- Assessment and treatment of opioid, alcohol, and other substance use disorders
- Approaches to suspected misuse, abuse, or diversion of prescribed opioids
- Methods to simplify opioid-based pain regimens to reduce risk of misuse and toxicity
- Urine toxicology testing- when to use it and what it means
- Use of buprenorphine and the role of methadone maintenance
- Withdrawal management for opioids, alcohol, and other CNS depressants
- Harm reduction strategies and overdose prevention
- Managing substance use in special populations (pregnancy, HIV, hepatitis)
- Productive ways of discussing (known or suspected) addiction with patients.
- Other complex cases regarding medication selection, dosing, side effect management, adherence, drug-drug interactions, or level of care considerations.

Contacting the Clinician Consultation Center

Call (844) 326-2626 available 24/7

Documentation

When this service is utilized, the medical director or LPHA working within their scope of practice who provided the treatment service to the DMC person served shall record a progress note and keep in the persons served's file. Progress notes shall include the following:

1. Person served name
2. The purpose of the service
3. Date, start and end times of each service
4. Identify if services were provided face-to-face, by telephone, telehealth, or by asynchronous telecommunication systems.

