

DRUG MEDI-CAL ORGANIZED DELIVERY SYSTEM WAIVER CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

FAQ

What is the Waiver?

The Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System “Bridge to Reform” Demonstration Waiver (“DMC Waiver”) is a pilot program that expands benefits to treat substance use disorders (SUDs). The DMC Waiver will test new models of delivering services to Medi-Cal eligible county residents with SUD.

California counties opting into the DMC Waiver are allowed Medi-Cal reimbursement for additional SUD treatment modalities and new benefits for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

How does the DMC Waiver improve SUD treatment?

- Increase and improve the quality and availability of SUD services
- Expand the types of services available
- Support coordination and integration of physical and behavioral healthcare systems
- Reduce emergency room and hospital inpatient visits
- Ensure faster access to SUD services while also increasing program oversight and integrity at the county and state level

How does the DMC Waiver change current SUD treatment services?

It expands reimbursable services under Drug Medi-Cal (DMC). DMC will fund outpatient, intensive outpatient, residential and opioid (methadone) treatment programs. The Waiver allows DMC to fund a more comprehensive system of care modeled after the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria for SUD services.

Who is eligible for the SUD benefits?

All Medi-Cal beneficiaries who live in Contra Costa County or another participating county have access to the new services. This includes previously eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries (such as children in households with income up to 250% of the federal poverty level) and the Medi-Cal expansion population (single adults without children with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level). A qualified physician or Licensed Professional of the Healing Arts (LPHA) MUST determine the services to be medically necessary.

When will the DMC Waiver be available in Contra Costa County?

The new services are already available. The DMC Waiver contract was approved by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and by the county Board of Supervisors as of June 2017.

What does medical necessity mean?

“Medically necessary” means the patient is diagnosed with at least one disorder from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, except tobacco-related disorders and non-substance-related disorders, or is younger than 21 and assessed to be at risk for developing a SUD. Patients must meet ASAM criteria for medical necessity or, if applicable, the ASAM adolescent treatment criteria.

How can residents access services under the DMC Waiver?

Contra Costa residents may access services by calling the toll-free Behavioral Health Access Line at 1-800-846-1652. to obtain ASAM placement and be referred to a Drug Medi-Cal certified provider.

What is Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)?

Medications can be used in combination with behavioral therapies to treat alcohol or opiate abuse. Methadone treatment is already available through DMC. Several more pharmacotherapies are available through the DMC Waiver.

For example, **Acamprosate** reduces alcohol withdrawal symptoms and can help patients to achieve abstinence or maintain longer sobriety periods.

Naltrexone, a medication used to block the effects of opioids, can also reduce craving in those with alcohol use disorders.

Disulfiram changes the way the body metabolizes alcohol, resulting in unpleasant reactions such as flushing and nausea if a patient consumes alcohol after taking it.

Buprenorphine is a safe and effective medication to help people reduce or quit their use of heroin or other opiates.

Summary of Benefits and Coverage				
Services you May Need	ASAM Level	Youth (13-18)	Adult	Limitations and Exceptions
Preventive Care: Screening and Brief Intervention (SBIRT)	.5	✓	✓	Once per year with your medical provider or managed care plan benefits
Outpatient care from DMC-certified providers	1	✓	✓	Up to nine hours of weekly treatment for adults and six for youth
Intensive Outpatient care from DMC-certified providers	2.1	✓	✓	Nine to 19 hours of weekly treatment for adults and six to 19 hours for youth
Short-term & long-term residential treatment (Social Model DMC-certified providers)	3.1	✓	✓	Two non-continuous, 90-day stays for adults per year. Requires prior authorization. One 30-day extension may be authorized, subject to utilization review.
				Two non-continuous stays of up to 35 days for youth per year. Requires prior Authorization. One 30-day extension may be authorized, subject to utilization review.
Non-medical withdrawal management 24-hour detoxification and moderate withdrawal support in a Social Model setting	3.2	N/A	✓	Immediate admission with authorization required.
MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) PHARMACOTHERAPY				
Opioid Treatment				
Methadone - NTP licensed facilities Behavioral counseling of up to 200 minutes per month, in 10- to 20-minute sessions.		N/A	✓	Additional counseling with medical justification for individual and group behavioral therapy
Suboxone Services available through specialty "Choosing Change" clinics within Contra Costa Health Services and waived doctors		N/A	✓	Behavioral Health individual and group counseling through behaviorists in the clinics
Case Management		✓	✓	Supports transition across levels of care.
Recovery Support		✓	✓	Prevents relapses, sustains sobriety and builds self-management skills. Benefit may be available after completion of treatment.