

**County of San Bernardino
Department of Behavioral Health**

**Medication Policy for Clients Seeking Alcohol and Drug
Treatment Services**

Effective Date February 1, 2009
Approval Date February 6, 2009



Allan Rawland, Director

Policy It is the policy of San Bernardino County, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS) to prohibit discrimination in the delivery of services and/or benefits based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability (physical or mental impairment). Clients with disabilities who are under medical care and taking prescribed medication may not be denied services solely because they are taking prescribed medication.

Purpose To ensure that all DBH-ADS clinics and contract providers offer and provide ADS services to clients with disabilities presenting for services who are otherwise eligible for services but for the prescribed medication that the client is taking, regardless of the type of prescribed medication.

Definitions **Physical and mental impairments:** Any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.

Guidelines ADS clinics and contract providers are required to develop a policy and/or procedure that address the admission of clients who are taking prescribed medication. The policy must contain at a minimum:

1. The coordination of treatment services with client's physician when the client enters treatment taking prescribed medication which have depressive, stimulant, or psychoactive characteristics
2. How treatment plans will address the prescription medication and the modification of treatment plans to adjust to the changes in prescription medications.

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Guidelines
(continued)

3. Client behavior that causes concern for the treatment provider and/or program participants when the behavior is believed to be attributable to the client's medication. This behavior should be addressed from a clinical perspective with the client and/or the client's physician.

The policies and/or procedures that are developed must be in accordance with the County of San Bernardino's policy and must ensure that admission to treatment is absent of any discriminatory practices based on this policy.

Reference

Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 45 CFR California Civil Code, Section 51(b)
