

Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services Residential Prior Authorization Policy

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Policy It is the policy of the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to comply with state revenue contract requirements set forth by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), by ensuring all clients entering into Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services (SUDRS) contracted residential treatment programs receive prior authorization from SUDRS.

Purpose To describe how the residential prior authorization process that DBH SUDRS and contracted providers must follow prior to an SUD client being placed into a residential treatment programs will be facilitated.

Definition(s) **Screening Assessment and Referral Center (SARC)** DBH Screening, Assessment and Referral Center, which is a County-operated access line that serves as a primary point of access to Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services residential treatment or other available SUD services within the continuum of care.

Screening Assessment and Referral Center (SARC) In accordance with the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) agreement, SARC provides the following screening and referral services:

- SARC staff shall verify the Medicaid eligibility determination of the client;
- Appropriate SARC staff, under the following disciplines, will utilize a multidimensional screening tool via telephone to determine the potential clients need for treatment and appropriate level of care. Potential clients screened by SARC and determined to be in need of residential treatment will be authorized by DBH. Disciplines are as follows:
 - Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor
 - Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Arts (LPHA)
 - Licensed Clinical Social Worker;
 - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists;
 - Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, and
 - Licensed Eligible Practitioners working under the supervision of Licensed Clinicians; and
- Potential clients who receive prior authorization for residential treatment will be directed to present at the appropriate SUDRS contracted residential treatment facility for an intake assessment on a date and time convenient for the client and treatment provider.

Note: Outpatient, Intensive Outpatient, and Recovery Services do not require a prior authorization.

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- Reference(s)**
- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Section 438.910 (d)
 - Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 2
 - Revenue Agreement with California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for the Substance Use Disorder Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System
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