



# Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Policy

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**Policy** It is the policy of the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD) when indicated.

**Purpose** To outline the requirements for implementation of MAT services.

**Definition(s)** **Alcohol Use Disorder:** A pattern of alcohol use that involves problems controlling drinking, being preoccupied with alcohol or continuing to use alcohol even when it causes problems.

**Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT):** The use of medication approved by the United States (U.S.) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treatment of SUD.

**Opioid:** A class of drugs that act on the opioid receptors in the central nervous system causing sedation including synthetic opioids such as fentanyl; pain relievers available legally by prescription, and the illegal drug heroin, among others.

**Substance Use Disorder (SUD):** A treatable mental disorder that affects a person’s brain and behavior, leading to their inability to control their use of substances like legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications (including opioids).

**FDA approved medications for MAT** The Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 made it possible for physicians to treat opioid dependence in their own practices with Schedule III, IV, or V opioid medications approved by the FDA. The following is a list of FDA-approved medications for MAT services:

- Acamprosate;
- Buprenorphine;
- Disulfiram;
- Naloxone;
- Naltrexone;
- Long-acting injectable buprenorphine from Sublocade; and
- Long-acting injectable naltrexone from Vivitrol.

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### Methods of requesting MAT

Clients seeking MAT services must be assessed by a physician by means of a DBH approved program, which may include a physical clinic, a mobile wellness outreach unit or other approved outreach program(s), with the use of a biopsychosocial assessment. This assessment is a comprehensive evaluation that considers biological, psychological and social factors, to determine appropriateness of MAT candidates.

Clients may request or be referred for MAT services through one of the following methods:

- DBH Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services (SUDRS) Clinic;
  - DBH Screening Assessment and Referral Center (SARC),
  - Referrals from, but not limited to:
    - Hospitals;
    - Treatment court;
    - Correctional facility;
    - Assertive Outpatient Treatment Program;
    - Enhanced Care Management Team;
    - Conservatorship Investigation Unit;
    - Community Outreach Program;
    - Other programs or partners, or
    - Self-referral.
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### Rights and Responsibilities for MAT Services

Clients and facilities have the following rights and responsibilities in the provision of MAT services:

- Access to the facility shall not be denied because of a client's use of prescribed medications for the treatment of SUD;
- Assurance that a client is *not*:
  - Required to change their MAT medication to receive treatment services, and
  - Denied access to medications as part of MAT for:
    - Not participating in all services offered by a facility,
    - Substance use or misuse, and
    - Being within the constraints of safe medical practice as determined by a license medical provider considering risks and benefits;
- Support for a client who wants to continue to receive their preferred MAT medications, and
- Confirmation that a client will not be compelled to discontinue, decrease dosage, or abstain from medications provided as part of MAT as a condition of entering or remaining in the facility.

**Note:** Clients with Opiate or Alcohol Use Disorder who are experiencing cravings and have not improved in response to psychosocial approaches must be assessed for MAT services.

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### Mobile Wellness Outreach Unit

MAT services can be provided either in clinics or via Mobile Wellness Outreach Unit which provides targeted outreach and accessible MAT in remote, underserved areas, particularly for the homeless population who face significant barriers to traditional brick-and-mortar healthcare services.

- Mobile *field-based teams* provide both medical services and outreach efforts directly to communities in need including the following:
  - Medical evaluation via telehealth or in-person;
  - Prescribing medication;
  - Mental health support;
  - Medical and/or psychiatric clearances when required for residential SUD treatment;
  - Drug testing;
  - Engagement for community members who may benefit from substance use treatment;
  - Referral to community resources;
  - Medication administration when permitted and when clinically necessary.

**Note:** The Mobile Wellness Outreach Unit may administer non controlled medication(s) only (e.g., Long-Acting Injectable Naltrexone). Please refer to Control, Access and Accountability of Medications and Medical Supplies Policy (MDS2008) and Procedure (MDS2008-1) for medication storage and accountability guidance.

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### MAT Training

Training on MAT policy and procedure and benefits and risks of all FDA-approved medications for all clinic or program staff must be:

- Completed at the following times:
    - Upon hire for all clinic or program staff,
    - Quarterly, and
    - As needed;
  - Conducted by a qualified trainer, who is trained and monitored by the Medical Director;
  - Provided through the RELIAS online platform, and
  - Documented in the employee's personnel file.
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### Related Policy or Procedure

#### DBH Standard Practice Manual and Departmental Forms:

- Control, Access and Accountability of Medications and Medical Supplies Policy (MDS2008)
- Control, Access and Accountability of Medications and Medical Supplies Procedure (MDS2008-1)
- Medication Disposal Procedure (MDS2023)
- Advance Health Care Directive (COM018)
- Notice of Privacy Practices (NOPP) and Acknowledgement of Receipt of NOPP (COM004)
- Request for Restriction of Confidential Communication (COM030)
- Notice of Personal Rights (SUDRS003)
- Substance Use Disorder Referral Form (SUDRS034)
- Tuberculosis (TB) Questionnaire (ADS005)
- Client Payment Agreement (CLP001)
- Client Admission Agreement (Avatar) (SUDRS022)
- Authorization to Release Protected Health Information (PHI) (COM001)
- Consent for Outpatient Treatment (COM013)
- Title 22 Fair hearing Rights (SUDRS002)
- Opioid Agreement for Buprenorphine Medication Assisted Treatment (SUDRS040)

#### DBH Website

- [Medication Assisted Treatment for Substance Use Disorders](#)
- [SUDRS Clinical Practice Guidelines for Management of Substance Use Disorders \(2022\)](#)

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### Reference(s)

- [Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 8.11\(h\)](#)
  - Health and Safety Code Sections 11832.9 and 11834.28
  - [Health Questionnaire \(DHCS5103\)](#)
  - [DHCS BHIN 23-054 - Medications for Addiction Treatment \(MAT\) Services Requirements for Licensed and/or Certified Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Recovery or Treatment Facilities.](#)
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