



Substance Use Disorder Transition to Higher Level of Care Policy

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Policy It is the policy of the San Bernardino County (County) Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to ensure clients transition within a continuum of care based on medical necessity and the utilization of a multidimensional assessment tool for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services.

Purpose To provide standards for DBH staff and contracted treatment providers for the transition of SUD clients to a higher level of care when deemed medically necessary.

Definitions **Residential Treatment Facility:** A facility program that is licensed to provide treatment on a 24-hour basis.

Client Placement DBH and treatment provider staff must follow the Transition to Higher Level of Care procedure (SUDRS0226-1) and assess medical necessity when recommending a client be admitted to a residential treatment facility. Clients must receive authorization from DBH – Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services (SUDRS) Administration prior to entry into SUD Residential Treatment services.

Related Policy or Procedure **DBH Standard Practice Manual and Departmental Forms:**

- Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information (PHI) (COM001_E)
- Transition to Higher Level of Care Procedure (SUDRS0226-1)
- Residential Prior Authorization Policy (SUDRS0231)
- Adult DMC-ODS Transition Form (SUDRS026)
- Adult (21+) ASAM Level of Care Screening (SUDRS028)
- Adolescent (Age 12-17) and Young Adult (Age 18-20) ASAM Level of Care (SUDRS031)
- Adolescent-Young Adult DMC-ODS Transition Form (SUDRS033)
- SUD Referral Form (SUDRS034)

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Reference(s)

- [Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 2](#)
 - [Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Section 438.910 \(d\)](#)
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