



Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services Policies and Procedures	Section Name:	Compliance
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	SIGNATURE	DATE APPROVED
Director of Operations Behavioral Health Services	<u>Signature on File</u>	<u>12/17/2020</u>

SUBJECT: Role of the Behavioral Health Nurse in Substance Use Disorder Programs

PURPOSE:

To establish proper guidelines for the roles and responsibilities of the Behavioral Health Nurse in the County Operated Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs.

POLICY:

The Behavioral Health Nurse in SUD programs shall have roles and responsibilities that are within their scope of practice as a Registered Nurse (RN).

SCOPE:

These procedures apply to County Operated Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs in Adult and Older Adult Behavioral Health Services (AOABH).

REFERENCES:

[Business and Professional Code, Division 2. Healing Arts, Chapter 6. Nursing, Article 2. Scope of Regulations](#)

[BHS P&P 03.01.04 Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Provider Training Requirements](#)

DEFINITION:

Behavioral Health Nurse (BHN) – As defined by the County of Orange Health Care Agency job classification (Class Code: 4175HP), a BHN must possess a valid Registered Nurse License issued by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Additionally, BHN are required to have specialized training and experience in behavioral health and substance abuse programs, and the application of specialized clinical skills and judgement.

PROCEDURE:

- I. The Behavioral Health Nurse may perform the following duties in a County Operated SUD program:
 - A. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Clinic Services including, but not limited to:

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1. Injections
 2. Administering oral medications
 3. Obtaining/monitoring vital signs
 4. Nursing Assessments
- B. Health Education Groups including, but not limited to:
1. Health consequences of substance use
 2. Infectious disease education
 3. Perinatal Programs education
- C. Medical Withdrawal Management Evaluations including, but not limited to:
1. Medical Withdrawal Management evaluation
 2. SUD Brief Level of Care (LOC) Screening
 3. Referring/linking to treatment providers
- D. Case Management including, but not limited to:
1. Coordination of Care and collaborating with beneficiary/client to link to their Primary Care Provider (PCP) to obtain a general comprehensive physical examination.
 2. Second review of Health Questionnaires.
- E. SUD Screenings including, but not limited to:
1. SUD Brief Level of Care (LOC) Screening
 2. Referring/linking to treatment providers
 3. Overview of program services
 4. Completion of California Outcome Measurement System (CalOMS) questionnaires
 5. Completion of administrative admission paperwork
- F. Documenting all services provided to meet Medi-Cal standards.

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- II. The Behavioral Health Nurse should attend the following trainings within the first year of hire:
 - A. Continuing Education training related to providing care in a Substance Use Disorder Treatment program.
 - B. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Multidimensional Assessment (also referred to as ASAM-A or ASAM I).
 - C. Assessment to Service Planning and Level of Care (sometimes referred to as ASAM-B or ASAM II).
 - D. Motivational Interviewing
 - E. SUD Documentation Training
 - F. SUD Annual Provider Training
 - G. Annual Compliance Training
 - H. Cultural Competence Training