



Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services Policies and Procedures	Section Name:	Care and Treatment
	Sub Section:	Miscellaneous
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	SIGNATURE	DATE APPROVED
Deputy Director Behavioral Health Services	_____ Signature on File	_____ 3/18/2024

SUBJECT: Distribution of Fentanyl Test Strips in BHS Programs and Outreach Events to Community Members

PURPOSE:

To provide a written policy regarding the distribution and storage of Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS) in the Health Care Agency (HCA) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) programs and outreach events to community members who are determined to benefit from the FTS. Fentanyl Test Strips are used to detect fentanyl in illicit drugs and may help inform individuals using substances and those who have a substance use disorder about the risk of fentanyl exposure prior to ingestion.

POLICY:

The HCA service providers must follow specific procedures for receipt, distribution, and storage of FTS in the BHS programs. HCA service providers will be able to distribute FTS directly to individuals determined to be at risk for opioid use and opioid overdose. FTS shall be distributed by program service providers at clinics, field, and outreach events to community members recognized as having the potential to be at risk of exposure to substances that may contain fentanyl either intentionally or via contamination.

SCOPE:

This procedure outlines a specific protocol for HCA service providers to store and distribute FTS in the BHS programs.

REFERENCES:

The Facts About Fentanyl - [Fentanyl \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov)

Fentanyl Testing to Prevent Overdose [Fact Sheet: Fentanyl Testing to Prevent Overdose - Information for People Who Use Drugs and Healthcare Providers](#)

FORMS:

Fentanyl Test Strips Distribution Log (Contact SUD Program Administrator for form)

DEFINITION:

Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS) - A form of drug testing technology that was originally developed for urinalysis but has been shown to be effective at detecting the presence of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs in drug samples prior to ingestion. FTS can be used in non-opioid unregulated drug products to determine the likely presence of fentanyl or fentanyl analogues as contaminants. They can be used to test injectable drugs, powders, pills and cannabis products.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Distribution Guidelines and Requirements
 - A. Program service providers (clinic and field-based programs) shall assess individuals to determine risk for potential opioid overdose and/or exposure to substance that may contain fentanyl.
 - B. All FTS distributed must be recorded on the FTS Distribution Log.
 - C. Plan members/clients or family/community members will not be charged for receiving FTS.
 - D. All plan members/clients or family/community members shall be provided a handout with instructions for one-time use in their primary language to explain how to use FTS.
 - E. Distribution of FTS shall be tracked on the FTS Distribution Log indicating date, location (i.e., clinic, field, community etc.) and the number of strips.
 - F. FTS shall be kept in an accessible location, such as front office area, and all program service providers shall have access to FTS.
 - G. FTS shall be stored at temperatures between 36-86°F per manufacturer guidelines.