



RICHARD FIGUEROA
ACTING DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: February 12, 2020

Behavioral Health Information Notice No.: 20-006

TO: Alcohol and/or Other Drug Programs Licensed and/or Certified by the
Department of Health Care Services
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Association of DUI Treatment Programs
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Opioid Maintenance Providers
California State Association of Counties
Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations
County Behavioral Health Directors
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
County Drug & Alcohol Administrators
California Alliance of Child and Family Services

SUBJECT: Updates to Alcohol and/or Other Drug (AOD) Program Certification
Standards

PURPOSE: This Information Notice (IN) notifies licensed or certified substance use
disorder (SUD) programs of changes to the AOD Program Certification
Standards.

REFERENCE: Health and Safety Code Section 11830.1 and [MHSUDS IN No. 17-017](#)

POLICY: The AOD Program Certification Standards (revised February 2020) replace the previous
AOD Program Certification Standards (revised May 1, 2017). Changes were made to:

- Address the recent implementation of Senate Bill 1228, which prohibits remuneration for referrals;
- Provide clarification that licensed residential treatment facilities do not need DHCS approval for Incidental Medical Services in order to allow client access to Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for medication-assisted treatment (MAT);

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- Remove the maximum number of counseling hours for intensive outpatient services;
- Specify that client rights must include the right to take medications prescribed by a licensed clinician for physical, mental health or SUD conditions; and to
- Require training for staff on the fundamentals of MAT, including how medications work to treat addiction, information about addiction as a chronic disease, and the importance of removing stigma from the use of medications in an SUD treatment plan.

These Standards become effective on July 1, 2020. Currently certified SUD programs or programs seeking initial DHCS certification shall have until July 1, 2020, to comply with these Standards.

Free MAT staff training resources are available at www.CaliforniaMAT.org/resources.

If you have questions about this Information Notice, please contact the Licensing and Certification Officer of the Day at (916) 322-2911 or LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Janelle Ito-Orille, Chief
Licensing and Certification Division

Enclosure