



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: August 31, 2020

Behavioral Health Information Notice No: 20-050

TO: California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Association of DUI Treatment Programs
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
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

SUBJECT: Addition of Oxycodone and Fentanyl to the List Of Substances to be Tested or Analyzed for in Samples Collected from Patient Body Specimens

REFERENCE: This addition to the testing panel clarifies Title 9, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Division 4, Chapter 4, Subchapter 5, Section 10315.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Information Notice is to inform all Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP) licensed by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that oxycodone and fentanyl have been added to the list of substances that must be tested or analyzed for in each patient body specimen sample collected.

BACKGROUND:

Title 9, CCR, Division 4, Chapter 4, Subchapter 5, Section 10315 specifies which substances NTPs must test or analyze for in body specimen samples collected from patients. These are substances that are commonly used and/or are contraindicated with methadone. Title 9, CCR, Division 4, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1 commencing with Section 10000 was amended as part of regulations package 14-026 and became effective July 1, 2020. The amendment to Title 9, CCR, Division 4, Chapter 4,

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Subchapter 5, Section 10315 changed “opiates” to “opioids,” which now allows for the testing of synthetic opioids. Benzodiazepines and buprenorphine and/or buprenorphine products have been added to the list of tested substances.

Opioid is defined as any psychoactive chemical that resembles morphine in pharmacological effects, including opiates and synthetic/semisynthetic agents that exert their effects by binding to opioid receptors in the brain. Benzodiazepines are high-risk with methadone use and the detection of buprenorphine in patient body specimens can be used to ensure that patients receiving buprenorphine as part of their narcotic replacement therapy are taking the medication as ordered.

In recent years, nonmedical use of benzodiazepines, oxycodone and fentanyl has been on the rise, and there has been an alarming increase in fentanyl-related deaths. This policy will allow testing for these substances.

POLICY:

DHCS now requires oxycodone and fentanyl to be on the list of substances that all NTPs must test or analyze for in patient body specimen samples according to Title 9, CCR, Division 4, Subchapter 5, Section 10315(a).

If you have questions regarding this Information Notice, please contact the Counselor and Medication Assisted Treatment Section at DHCSNTP@dhcs.ca.gov or at (916) 322-6682.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Janelle Ito-Orille, Division Chief
Licensing and Certification Division