

Buprenorphine Requirements Across Medi-Cal Systems of Care
May 2017

Question	Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Pilot Counties	Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Non-Waivered Counties / State Plan Only Services	DHCS Fee-For-Service (FFS)
Is buprenorphine a covered benefit?	Yes. Buprenorphine is a covered benefit and access to buprenorphine is required in NTP facilities. Access to buprenorphine is optional in non-NTP facilities.	No. Buprenorphine is not a covered benefit under DMC State Plan Services. A Data 2000 waived professional may become a FFS provider and provide this service in a SUD setting.	Yes. Any DATA 2000 waived Medi-Cal professional can order, stock, and administer buprenorphine for treatment of opioid addiction. The patient can also fill the prescription under the FFS Pharmacy Benefit.
Where can buprenorphine services be provided?	Services can be provided at DMC-certified facilities and in the community.	Buprenorphine is not a covered benefit under DMC State Plan Services.	Services can be provided at any outpatient clinic or physician office setting where the medical staff has appropriate state and federal certifications for treatment of opioid dependence outside of NTPs.
What are the provider contract requirements?	The DMC provider must be selected by the county to provide services.	Buprenorphine is not a covered benefit under DMC State Plan Services.	The qualified practitioner contracts directly with DHCS (not the county) as a FFS provider.
Is telehealth covered?	Yes, but only if the county chooses to provide this service.	Buprenorphine is not a covered benefit under DMC State Plan Services.	No. ¹

¹ Telehealth services are available, but telehealth for SUD services are not covered. See <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/TelehealthFAQ.aspx>.