



**PROVIDER INFORMATION NOTICE**

**PIN:** 17 – 03  
**TITLE:** MHLA Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) Treatment Services – **NEW SERVICES ADDED**  
**DATE:** June 30, 2017

Los Angeles County  
Board of Supervisors

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First District

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This PIN has been updated to reflect the addition of new Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services available to MHLA patients as of **July 1, 2017**. The newly added services include Residential Medical Detoxification, Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) and Recovery Bridge Housing.

**Background**

On December 11, 2015, The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the inclusion of SUD treatment services to the MHLA program. The Department of Public Health's (DPH) Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Division (SAPC) and its contracted service providers are responsible for providing SUD care for any MHLA participant either self-referred or referred by their medical home, based on an SUD assessment and clinical standards.

The expansion of SUD services to MHLA participants is consistent with the existing definition of Medical Home in the MHLA Agreement, which states that the Medical Home facilitates outreach to and communication with SUD providers as appropriate. The intent of that language is to connect MHLA Participants with necessary care, and MHLA Community Partners (CPs) will refer MHLA Participants to SAPC's network of SUD treatment providers, at no additional cost to the CP. Therefore, the MHLA Agreement does not need to be amended to implement this change.

**SUD Services Available on July 1, 2017**

Below are the SUD services that MHLA participants can obtain free of charge as of July 1, 2017:

Managed Care Services  
1000 S. Fremont Ave.  
Bldg. A-9 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, #4  
Alhambra, CA 91803-8859  
Tel: (626) 299-5300  
Fax: (626) 458-6761

Michael Owens, MD, MPH, VFACPE, CPE  
Interim Director & Chief Medical Officer  
Managed Care Services

Amy Luftig Viste  
Program Director, MHLA

*To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.*



[www.dhs.lacounty.gov](http://www.dhs.lacounty.gov)

LEVEL OF CARE (These services are for clinically appropriate treatment for all SUDs irrespective of the substance being used).	ADULT SUD BENEFIT	ADOLESCENT SUD BENEFIT
Early Intervention (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) in Primary Care Settings*	Yes	Yes
Outpatient (maximum of 9 hours per week for adults, and 6 hours per week for adolescents)	Yes	Yes
Intensive Outpatient (9-19 hours per week for adults, and 6-19 hours per week for adolescents)	Yes	Yes
Residential	Yes	Yes
Residential Medical Detoxification	Yes	Yes
Ambulatory Withdrawal Management	Yes	Yes
Residential Withdrawal Management	Yes	No*
Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP)	Yes	Yes
Additional Medication Assisted Treatment	Yes	No
Recovery Bridge Housing	Yes	Yes
Case Management for SUD Treatment and Care Coordination with Health, Mental Health, and Social Services (i.e. outreach, referral, linkage to maintain engagement in treatment and connecting patients to treatment across the SUD continuum of care and providers of other services)	Yes	Yes

\* Levels of care and SUD services that are not provided within the SAPC network of providers, but are available via other systems of care (e.g., DHS) and providers within Los Angeles County.

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### **Patient Referrals to the Department of Public Health SAPC Providers for MHLA**

SUD services will be available to all MHLA Participants. There are two ways that a MHLA Participant can obtain SUD services through the DPH SAPC network of providers that are participating in MHLA:

1. MHLA Participants can self-refer to any MHLA-participating SUD site by contacting SAPC's Substance Abuse Service Helpline (SASH) at 1-844-804-7500.
2. MHLA CP's can refer a MHLA Participant to those SAPC providers that provided covered SUD services using existing/current referral channels.
  - A searchable map of SAPC SUD providers that offer MHLA-covered SUD services can be found through the Service and Bed Availability Tool (SBAT) on the SAPC website: <http://ph.lacounty.gov/sapc>
  - All clinics who refer a MHLA Participant will be required to complete a Universal Release Form with the participant's signature, which is essential should the MHLA CP provider request SUD information from a SAPC service provider. The signed and dated Universal Release Form must be placed in the participant's medical record.
  - MHLA CPs should complete a SUD screening tool prior to referral to a SAPC provider. The Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) tool is an example of what many clinics use to assess patients for referrals to SAPC providers.

SAPC has modified their Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS) forms to include information about a patient's MHLA enrollment status and Patient Identification (PID) number. If a MHLA Participant self-identifies as MHLA but does not have their ID card, SAPC and its contracted providers have been instructed to call MHLA member services so that the MHLA ID number can be inputted into LACPRS.

### **DPH Communication with SAPC Providers**

SAPC has developed a provider bulletin for SUD service providers with instructions about which SAPC contracted providers may deliver services to MHLA Participants, how to identify MHLA Participants at time of admission or treatment, the process for billing DPH/SAPC for SUD services rendered to MHLA Participants, and patient reporting procedures. This includes a statement that MHLA Participants are not to be charged for any covered SUD service. Providers are encouraged to visit the following link to receive the most recent information:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/bulletins/bulletin.htm>

### **MHLA Participant Communications**

The MHLA handbook, ID card and website have been updated to reflect the addition of SUD services to the MHLA program. This information will also be included in the next MHLA Participant newsletter, currently scheduled for July 2017. In addition, a new English/Spanish fact sheet is available to explain the new SUD services to participants which can be provided to participants in your clinic. This fact sheet is attached to this PIN, and can also be found on the MHLA website.

### **SAPC Providers and SUD Contact Information**

The Service and Bed Availability Tool (SBAT) on SAPC's website lists SAPC clinics participating in the expansion of the SUD benefit. The SBAT includes a searchable map of SAPC's directory of providers participating in MHLA and can also be found at: [ph.lacounty.gov/sapc](http://ph.lacounty.gov/sapc)

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The phone number for SAPC's Substance Abuse Service Helpline (SASH) is 1-844-804-7500, which can also be found at the SAPC website: <http://ph.lacounty.gov/sapc/>. This phone number will connect callers to the Los Angeles County's DPH hotline who will then transfer the caller to the CASC closest to where the caller lives. The line is staffed on weekdays from 8 AM to 6 PM with a message service after hours, and on weekends and holidays. The line will be answered by live personnel at all times during operating hours. Calls received after hours or on weekends and holidays will be returned on the first following business day according to instructions left by the caller.

### **MHLA Payments**

MHLA payments to CPs will not change. SUD services for MHLA Participants will be provided by SAPC's existing network of SUD providers, and all SUD services will be reimbursed directly by SAPC to those SUD providers. While some CP clinics are also SAPC providers, any SUD service provided by a SAPC provider should continue to be billed to, and reimbursed by, SAPC in accordance with SAPC procedures. MHLA does not audit SAPC providers, and CP audits by the MHLA program will not change as a result of the addition of SUD services to MHLA.

If you have any questions about this transition, please contact your Program Advocate.



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Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

### Attachments

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Revised MHLA SUD Fact Sheet