



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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www.dhs.lacounty.gov

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.

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Dear Pharmacist,

We would like to introduce you to this Community Health Worker (CHW) who is working with the Department of Health Services and our partners to provide support to people experiencing homelessness (PEH) who have an Opioid Use Disorder. Part of that support work is helping to reduce any barriers for the PEH in accessing buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone).

We appreciate your support in our efforts, as we are sure you are aware that opioid overdose is the most common cause of death in people experiencing homelessness.

Through a partnership with DHS' Housing for Health's street medicine teams, and DHS' growing Addiction Medicine team, we are implementing an evidence-based and life-saving *Medication First* approach for our most vulnerable patients.

With this note we assure you that:

- The prescriptions are from a trusted source.
- This CHW is a trusted person to pick up medication for the patient.
- This CHW is available to help you with any trouble shooting or to help you contact the appropriate persons if they do not know the answers.
- Any costs being paid for by the CHW are funded via our programs.
- If there are any issues with the patient's identification, the CHW is actively working to help the patient re-gain appropriate ID. Please accept CHW's ID and any supportive paperwork from patient as proof that the CHW is present with the correct patient.

Our larger team is always available:

- To support you in addressing any challenges to stocking and billing for naloxone and buprenorphine products.
- To provide technical assistance, support and training to your pharmacies, pharmacists and other frontline staff as needed.
- To use grant funding to pay for buprenorphine out-of-pocket costs.
- To develop collaborative solutions to overcome any other barriers.

Please feel free to contact any of us below for more information.

Warmly,

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