



Medication Policy for Clients Seeking Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services

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Policy It is the policy of San Bernardino County, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services (SUDRS) to prohibit discrimination against clients who take prescribed medications, regardless of the type of prescribed medication. In accordance with California Civil Code 45 CFR and County policy, clients who are under medical care and taking prescribed medication may not be denied services solely because they are taking prescribed medication including medications approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the purpose of medication assisted treatment (MAT).

Purpose To provide guidance to all DBH-SUD clinics and contract providers for offering and providing Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services to clients who are otherwise eligible for services except for prescribed medication being taken.

Definition(s) **Mental impairments:** Any mental or psychological disorder, such as intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental health disorder, and specific learning disabilities.
Safeguarding medications: Facilities will store all resident medication in a secure locked location and facility staff members may assist with resident's self-administration of medication.

Guidelines All DBH SUD clinics and contract providers shall:

- Have written policies and procedures regarding use of prescribed medications by clients;
- Have written processes for disposal of prescriptions and over the counter expired medications and other bio-hazardous pharmaceuticals (including used syringes or medications) which are not removed by the client upon termination of services;
- Have on site at all times at least one program staff member trained to adequately monitor clients for signs and symptoms of possible misuse of prescribed medications, adverse medication reactions, and related medical complications;

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Medication Policy for Clients Seeking Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services, Continued

Guidelines, continued

- Safeguard medications in Residential SUD facilities;
 - Coordinate treatment services with client's physician when client is taking prescribed medications;
 - Include medication in treatment plans and/or problem lists and update as clinically appropriate, and
 - Address concerning client behavior with appropriate individuals (I.E. client's Physician, the client, clinician, etc.) when it is suspected that it may be attributed to client medication.
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Related Policy or Procedure

DBH Standard Practice Manual and Departmental Forms:

- SUDRS0223 Substance Use Disorder Medication Safety And Effectiveness Policy
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Reference(s)

- [Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990](#)
 - [45 CFR California Civil Code, § 51\(b\)](#)
 - [Alcohol and/or Other Drug Certification Standards](#)
 - [San Bernardino County Policy Manual](#)
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