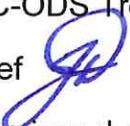


M E M O R A N D U M

Date: March 16, 2020
To: All ADP Contracted DMC-ODS Treatment Providers
From: John Doyel, Division Chief 
Subject: DMC-ODS Treatment Services during the Coronavirus (COVID-19)
CC: Alice Gleghorn, Pam Fisher, Melissa Wilkins, Amy Lopez, QCM, SB
County Probation and Social Services Departments

Hello everyone, our hearts go out to all those affected by the Coronavirus. County Public Health and Behavioral Wellness Departments, the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) have issued consistent measures to mitigate the virus while providing necessary SUD services to our clients in need.

At this time until further notice, all services that can be provided by telephone and telehealth must be utilized to minimize community spread of COVID-19 as well as to protect the behavioral health workforce from illness. Here are the important points:

1. Except for Initial Assessment and Medical Necessity determination, Outpatient Services (Level 1.0) and Intensive Outpatient Services (Level 2.1) "may be provided in-person, by telephone, or by telehealth, in any appropriate setting in the community" (State DHCS Contract with County Behavioral Wellness).
2. All initial assessments and medical necessity determinations must still be done in-person or by telehealth only.
3. If you need to meet with a beneficiary in-person, please use the attached Behavioral Wellness Coronavirus/COVID-19 Screening Form before providing services.
4. Individual and or group counseling "may be done by telephone, or by telehealth, in any appropriate setting in the community".
5. Re: "appropriate setting in the community": DHCS does not restrict the location of services via telehealth. Beneficiaries may receive services via telehealth in their home, and providers may deliver services via telehealth from anywhere in

the community, outside a clinic or other provider site (See attached DHCS Information Notice 20-009). Providers must ensure confidentiality for all services provided.

6. Providers must document all services provided in accordance with DMC-ODS Documentation guidelines and must specify in the "Description" of the progress note whether the service was provided face-to-face, via telephone, or via telehealth. Additionally, the beneficiary's verbal or written consent for the telephone or telehealth visit should be noted (DHCS Information Notice 20-009).
7. Re: Residential Treatment Services (RTS), DHCS writes that certain services, such as residential services, require a clearly established site for services and in-person contact with a beneficiary in order to be claimed. However California's Medicaid [DMC-ODS] State Plan does not require that all components of these services be provided in-person. (An example could include services via telephone for a patient quarantined in their room in a residential facility due to illness).
8. For justice involved and social service clients, drug testing may be done by the referring entity. Providers are not required to drug test clients until further notice.

Thank you all for your work. I appreciate and empathize with what you are going through and commit my department to do everything possible to ensure sound clinical and fiscal practices.