The Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Pilot Program

What is the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)?

The DMC-ODS is a voluntary pilot program that offers California counties the opportunity to expand access to high-quality care for Medi-Cal enrollees with substance use disorders (SUD). The goal of the DMC-ODS is to demonstrate how organized SUD care improves beneficiary health outcomes, while decreasing system-wide health care costs. Counties that choose to participate in the DMC-ODS are required to provide access to a full continuum of SUD benefits modeled after the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria. This approach is expected to provide eligible enrollees with access to the care and services they need for a sustainable and successful recovery.

What Are the Advantages of Implementing the DMC-ODS?

The DMC-ODS will improve access to quality care by:

- Expanding local networks of high quality providers through selective provider contracting;
- Requiring the use evidence-based practices in SUD treatment;
- Increasing coordination with other systems of care, including physical and mental health;
- Increasing local control and accountability with greater administrative oversight; and,
- Creating quality assurance and utilization controls to promote efficient and effective use of resources.

What is the ASAM Criteria & Why is it Important?

The ASAM Criteria is the result of a collaboration of experts that began in the 1980s to define a national set of criteria for proving outcome-oriented and results-based care in the treatment of addiction. The ASAM Criteria is a proven model in the SUD field, and is the most widely used and comprehensive set of guidelines for assessing patient needs and optimizing placement into SUD treatment. Counties that implement the DMC-ODS are required to use the ASAM Criteria to ensure that eligible beneficiaries have access to the SUD services that best align with their treatment needs.

Who is Eligible to Receive DMC-ODS Services?

To receive services through the DMC-ODS, the beneficiary must meet the following criteria:

1. The beneficiary must be enrolled in Medi-Cal;
2. The beneficiary must reside in a county that is participating in the DMC-ODS;

3. The beneficiary must have at least one diagnosis from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders with certain exceptions, or for youth under 21, be assessed as "at-risk" for developing a SUD; and,
4. The beneficiary must meet the ASAM Criteria definition of medical necessity for services (or ASAM adolescent treatment criteria for youth under 21).

What New Benefits are Available through the DMC-ODS?

The standard Drug Medi-Cal program covers outpatient services, intensive outpatient services, limited perinatal residential services, and narcotic treatment program services. Optional participation in the DMC-ODS allows counties to cover an expanded array of SUD services for Medi-Cal enrollees in their community. Counties participating in the DMC-ODS are required to provide the following SUD services for Medi-Cal enrollees:

DMC-ODS Benefits	Standard Drug Medi-Cal Benefits
Outpatient Services	Outpatient Services
Intensive Outpatient Services	Intensive Outpatient Services
Residential Treatment (multiple levels of care for all enrollees and no bed limitation)	Perinatal Residential Treatment (perinatal only and 16 bed limitation)
Withdrawal Management (continuum)	Inpatient Hospital Detoxification
Narcotic Treatment Program Services	Narcotic Treatment Program Services
Recovery Services	
Case Management	
Physician Consultation	
Additional Medication Assisted Treatment (optional)	
Partial Hospitalization (optional)	

How Can I Learn More about the DMC-ODS?

There are several resources available if you would like to learn more about the DMC-ODS:

- Visit http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Drug-Medi-Cal-Organized-Delivery-System.aspx
- Send an email to DMCODSWAIVER@dhcs.ca.gov
- Get in touch with your county to learn more about local efforts to implement the DMC-ODS