



KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS POLICY AND PROCEDURES			
Policy Title	Alcohol and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services	Policy #	21.03-P
Policy Owner	Behavioral Health	Original Effective Date	01/10/2025
Revision Effective Date		Approval Date	01/10/2025
Line of Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medi-Cal <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate		

I. POLICY

Kern Health Systems (KHS) will provide covered Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services, including alcohol and drug use screening, assessment, brief interventions, and referral to treatment (SABIRT) for members ages 11 and older, including pregnant members, in primary care settings and tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drug screening in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures for Children recommendations and United States Preventive Services Taskforce grade A and B recommendations for adults as outlined in All Plan Letter (APL) 21-014, Alcohol and Drug Screening, Assessment, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment. Further, KHS will provide or arrange for the provision of:

- A. Tobacco cessation counseling.
- B. Medications for Addiction Treatment (also known as Medication-Assisted Treatment) provided in primary care, inpatient hospital, emergency departments, and other contracted medical settings.
- C. Emergency services necessary to stabilize the member, including voluntary inpatient detoxification through the Medi-Cal fee for service program in accordance with policies outlined in Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) APL 18-001.¹

KHS will identify and refer an eligible Member to the Kern County Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) for the provision of Drug Medi-Cal services.

KHS and its contracted Primary Care Providers (PCPs) shall provide Screening for Substance and Alcohol Misuse, Brief Intervention, and Referral for Treatment (SABIRT) for Members identified as at-risk of substance and alcohol misuse.

The Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders policy and procedures will conform to requirements outlined in the following statutory, regulatory, and contractual sources:

- A. 2024 DHCS Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment III, 22-20201, Section 5.5.2, pages 393-398 of 611
- B. DHCS All Plan Letter APL 18-001¹ (January 11, 2018): Voluntary Inpatient Detoxification
- C. DHCS All Plan Letter APL 21-014 (October 11, 2021): Alcohol and Drug Screening, Assessment, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment
- D. DHCS All Plan Letter APL 22-006 (April 8, 2022): Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Responsibilities for Non-Specialty Mental Health Services.

II. DEFINITIONS

TERMS	DEFINITIONS
Alcohol Misuse	Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care means screening for alcohol misuse and providing persons engaged in risky or hazardous drinking with brief behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse
Alcohol Use Disorder	A patient meets the criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) for a substance use disorder resulting from alcohol use.
Behavioral Counseling Interventions for Alcohol Use	Activities delivered by primary care clinicians and related health care staff to assist patients in adopting, changing, or maintaining behaviors proven to affect health outcomes and health status including appropriate alcohol use.
Drug Medi-Cal Treatment Program (Drug Medi-Cal)	Program under which each county enters into contracts with the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for the provision of various drug treatment services to Medi-Cal recipients or DHCS directly arranges for the provision of these services if a county elects not to do so.

III. PROCEDURES

A. For Substance and Alcohol Misuse, a KHS Network PCP shall:

1. Administer the DHCS-approved screening tool for identifying substance and alcohol misuse in accordance with DHCS All Plan Letter (APL) 21-014: Alcohol and Drug Screening, Assessment, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment (SABIRT).
2. Provide behavioral counseling intervention on identified issue(s); and,
3. Refer members to KHS for linkage to Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS). KHS will outreach to member and complete the warm hand off to the SUD Access Line for initial brief American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Screening and linkage for additional assessment and counseling when indicated.

- B. For tobacco cessation, a KHS Network PCP shall:
 - 1. Identify members through an evaluation at a regular office visit or during the initial health assessment.
 - 2. Provide behavioral counseling.
 - 3. Offer treatment to assist with tobacco cessation or refer to KHS for referral to local group tobacco cessation counseling resources.

- C. For Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), KHS Network PCP shall:
 - 1. Provide members who are seeking treatment for opioid use with prescription for
 - 2. Offer prescription for buprenorphine or naltrexone.
 - 3. Refer members to KHS for linkage to Kern BHRS. KHS will outreach to member and complete the warm hand off to the SUD Access Line for initial brief ASAM Screening and linkage to counseling support for opioid use disorder (OUD).

- D. For Voluntary Inpatient Detoxification (VID):
 - 1. If member contacts KHS directly seeking VID services, KHS will refer members to VID service provider. The VID provider facility must not be a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility or an Institution for Mental Disease.
 - 2. The VID service provider must submit a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) for authorization. KHS will provide care coordination with the VID service provider as needed.
 - 3. Documentation that is submitted with the TAR should verify that admission criteria are met as well as demonstrate the medical necessity for the inpatient stay in general acute care hospital.

- E. Care Coordination with Kern BHRS for Substance and Alcohol Misuse Services:
 - 1. PCPs will submit referrals via portal for SUD services to KHS for linkage to Kern BHRS. KHS will outreach to member and complete the warm hand off to the SUD Access Line for initial brief ASAM Screening.
 - 2. If member contacts KHS directly seeking SUD services, KHS will provide linkage to KBHRS and complete the warm hand off to the SUD Access Line for initial brief ASAM Screening.
 - 3. KHS Behavioral Health (BH) Providers will provide the linkage for SUD service through Kern BHRS, if determined member requires services and upon member's request. KHS will receive monthly reporting from BH providers to assist with tracking coordination with SUD services.
 - 4. Through the automated data exchange process, KHS will send the monthly SUD referral outcome report to Kern BHRS for reconciliation on all referrals submitted requesting data to confirm member was linked for treatment (when and where). For members KBHRS is unable to obtain Release of Information, KHS will contact member to confirm whether treatment was received and track when and where.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

N/A

V. REFERENCES

Reference Type	Specific Reference
Other KHS Policies	KHS Policy & Procedure reference: 21.02-P, Case Coordination and Care Management
All Plan Letter(s) (APL)	¹ See: https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2018/APL18-001.pdf

VI. REVISION HISTORY

Action	Date	Brief Description of Updates	Author
Revised	2024-05	Per Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) will be included as a signatory on this policy.	E.J. Compliance
Revised	2024-03	Signatories updated to include Medical Directors and remove CMO.	E.J. Compliance
Revised	2023-06	Updated for 2022 DHCS Audit Corrective Action Plan (CAP).	Behavioral Health
Created	2023-05	New policy developed by Director of Behavioral Health; submitted for 2024 DHCS Operational Readiness (OR) Deliverable R.0207	Behavioral Health

VII. APPROVALS

Committees Board (if applicable)	Date Reviewed	Date Approved
Choose an item.		
Choose an item.		

Regulatory Agencies (if applicable)	Date Reviewed	Date Approved
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)	2023-05: 2024 OR Deliverable R.0207	06/21/2023
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)	2023-06: 2022 Audit CAP	04/17/2024

Chief Executive Leadership Approval *		
Title	Signature	Date Approved
Chief Executive Officer		
Chief Medical Officer		
Chief Operating Officer		
*Signatures are kept on file for reference but will not be on the published copy		



KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS

Policy and Procedure Review

KHS Policy & Procedure: 21.03-P Alcohol and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services

Previous implemented version: N/A

Reason for revision: New policy developed by Director of Behavioral Health for 2024 DHCS OR Deliverable R.0207 and updated for 2022 DHCS Audit CAP.

Director Approval		
Title	Signature	Date Approved
Melinda Santiago Director of Behavioral Health		
Robin Dow-Morales Senior Director of Claims		
Dr. Maninder Khalsa Medical Director of Utilization Management		

Date posted to public drive: _____

Date posted to website (“P” policies only): _____