

Lancaster County Drug & Alcohol Commission Case Management & Clinical Services Policy & Procedure Manual	CMCS # 27 Policy: Prescribed Medication(s) for Substance Use Disorders (a.k.a. Medication Assisted Treatment/MAT)
Most Current Revision: 07102023 Effective Date: 07/01/2020	Page: 1 of 2

**I. Purpose:**

To ensure that individuals with substance use disorders (SUD), for which there are FDA-approved medications available, have access to those medications as well as access to treatments and SUD related supportive services which are individualized accordingly.

**II. Procedure:**

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. Medications used in MAT are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and MAT programs are clinically driven and tailored to meet each patient’s needs.

*SAMHSA Medication-Assisted Treatment. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment>.*

The coordination of care between therapeutic and pharmaceutical interventions is critical. Individuals with SUD who have a disorder for which there is an FDA-approved medication treatment must have access to those treatments based upon their individual needs and preferences.

As such, LCDAC and its contracted service providers are responsible for ensuring the following:

1. Availability of FDA-approved medication(s);
2. Assistance with payment for medication(s);
3. Individuals are educated about the medications that are available;
4. Medication(s) and therapeutic interventions are available in all levels of care, even if the SUD treatment provider is not the prescriber of the medication(s);
5. Individual’s needs are met directly or through an appropriate referral to a prescriber;
6. Treatment and non-treatment providers do not exclude individuals prescribed a medication(s) specific to their substance use disorder from being admitted into services;
7. Coordination of care, with proper consent occurs in situations where a prescriber and the SUD treatment provider are not the same;
8. Treatment providers admit and provide services to individuals who are prescribed medications for their substance use disorder;
9. Provider capacity is sufficient to treat individuals who are prescribed a medication(s) for their substance use disorder;

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- 10. Information and referral is provided regarding access to prescribed medication(s) for substance use disorders to individuals who can obtain medications through other resources, such as medical assistance or third party insurance.

All treatment services and supportive services as well as the prescribed medication(s) for substance use disorder **must be** individualized.

Limitations of types of service, medication(s) or length of service is not permitted.

LCDAC shall only fund MAT which utilizes FDA-approved medications. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) website: <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment> contains a list of FDA-approved medications.

Restriction of admission based upon medication use may result in the restriction of LCDAC funding to the service provider.

**For LCDAC to fund MAT other than methadone:**

- **The Contracted Service Provider authorized by LCDAC to fund the non-methadone medications for SUD MUST:**
  - Adhere to the adage that LCDAC is the payor of last resort by checking that all other viable funds are non-existent.
  - Acquire the needed fully executed signed consents to release information; and
  - Acquire the needed fully executed signed redisclosure consents to re-release information.
- **The Individuals interested in securing the non-methadone medications for SUD MUST:**
  - Access services with a contracted LCDAC service provider authorized to fund medication(s) for substance use disorders; and
  - Utilize the LCDAC contracted apothecary to fill the prescription.

LCDAC will be responsible for:

- regularly cross-checking the existence of any available alternative funds to cover the costs of the non-methadone prescribed medication(s) for those individuals utilizing LCDAC funds.
- Apprising the contracted service provider if alternative funds are available; if the service provider is unaware such funds exist.

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_



Rick Kastner LCDAC Executive Director

07102023

Date