



SUDS BULLETIN

Title: <i>Joe Rangel</i> Drug Medi-Cal Emergency Regulations		Issue Date: February 2, 2015	Issue No.: 15 – 01
Approval: Joseph Rangel, Division Manager Contracts Division – Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services		Expiration Date: N/A	Supersedes Bulletin/SAS Letter No.: N/A
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treatment			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Other			

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Bulletin is to remind treatment service providers of the requirements of the Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Emergency Regulations that went into effect on June 25, 2014, per the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and which were renewed December 22, 2014.

DISCUSSION

When the Governor and Legislature authorized the elimination of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs on July 1, 2012, DHCS began an in-depth assessment of its operations and initiated a plan to develop stronger internal controls to protect the integrity of the DMC program. In July 2013, DHCS began performing targeted field reviews of DMC providers and also conducted a review of the DMC program itself. The State released “DHCS-14-006E: Finding of Emergency” to explain the need for regulatory amendments to Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Division 3, Section 51341.1 Drug Medi-Cal Substance Abuse Services. These Emergency Regulations were authorized June 25, 2014, in an attempt to address abusive and fraudulent practices identified during the targeted field reviews. Anticipated benefits from implementation of these amendments include clarification of provider obligation, enhanced provider accountability, increased treatment efficacy, and increased physician oversight. These amendments were renewed effective December 22, 2014, and will expire June 23, 2015.

Also in December 2014, DHCS announced that it was proposing changes to the text of the Emergency Regulations and added documentation to the rulemaking file. The 15-day public comment period ended January 9, 2015. The proposed changes are currently under review and may be monitored at the following web page:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/DHCS-14-006E-DMCProgramIntegrity.aspx>

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Providers are responsible for reviewing and implementing these regulations in order to enhance the fiscal integrity of the DMC program, and also to remain compliant with program requirements. Non-compliance with these amendments may lead to recoupment of funds.

REFERENCES

DHCS-14-006E - Drug Medi-Cal Program Integrity: Finding of Emergency

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Documents/Regulations/14-006E-FOE.pdf>

DMC Emergency Regulations

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Documents/Regulations/14-006E-ERT.pdf>

Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Division 3, Section 51341.1

CONTACT

Please contact your assigned analyst with any questions or concerns.