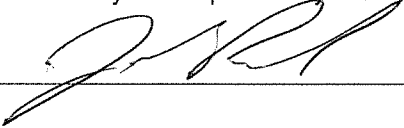




**SUD SERVICES BULLETIN**

Title: Drug Medi-Cal County of Responsibility Transition 		Issue Date: August 11, 2017  Expiration Date: N/A	Issue No.: 17-04
Approval: Joseph Rangel, Division Manager Contracts Division – Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services	Function: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Prevention <input type="checkbox"/> Education/Training <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Supersedes Bulletin/SAS Letter No.: N/A	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide guidance regarding the change in process for Medi-Cal claims adjudication from County of Service to County of Responsibility.

DISCUSSION:

Historically, Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) providers could receive reimbursement for DMC claims submitted based on the county in which the service was delivered, regardless of beneficiaries' county of residence. However, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently provided guidance to counties (see Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services (MHSUDS) Information Notice 17-036), that effectively eliminates Fresno County's ability to reimburse contracted providers for services provided to out-of-county residents. It also requires Fresno County to establish contractual arrangements when necessary, with non-Fresno County providers who serve Fresno County residents.

Effective immediately, Fresno County will no longer reimburse its contracted providers for DMC services to non-Fresno County residents. However, providers may continue to bill for services provided to non-Fresno County residents who are already engaged in treatment through September 30, 2017. The County will not reimburse for services to non-Fresno County residents beyond this date. Per standard procedure, billing for these clients must be accompanied by a DMC eligibility response.

For billing purposes, the County of Responsibility data is tracked and indicated in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data Systems (MEDS). Billing submissions for non-Fresno County residents will be automatically rejected.

Many Medi-Cal beneficiaries with out-of-county addresses who are receiving services in Fresno County may have failed to notify Medi-Cal of their new physical address. To minimize the impact of DHCS' change in reimbursement process, providers are advised to include a MEDS physical address verification during the intake process. If the physical address in MEDS indicates that the beneficiary resides in a different county, the provider should do the following:

- Direct the beneficiary to the Fresno County Department of Social Services to submit a change of address, if appropriate.
- Solicit a contract with the beneficiary's county of residence.

Out-of-county providers serving Fresno County residents may contact Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health – Contracted Services Division, Substance Use Disorder Services (SUD Services) at 559-600-6087, for information about contracting with Fresno County.

Fresno County DBH SUD Services is continuing to work with other California counties to create a statewide resolution to the reimbursement issue. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

## REFERENCES

Department of Health Care Services MHSUDS Information Notice 16-023.  
Department of Health Care Services MHSUDS Information Notice 17-036.

## DISTRIBUTION

SUD Treatment Providers

## CONTACT

Please contact your assigned analyst with any questions.