



Network Development and Patient Access

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Strategic and Network Development
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **New DMC ODS Benefit: Traditional Indian Health Care Practices**
- **Out-of-Network Policy**
- **CIBHS**

- **Behavioral Health Information Notice ([BHIN](#) 25-007)** released in March 2025 outlines availability of a new DMC ODS benefit called **Traditional Health Care Practices**
- Intended to improve access to culturally responsive care, support ability to service patients, improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in access to care.

» Western mental health focuses on the individual as the locus of illness, while for AI/AN mental illness is just a symptom of a whole community that is suffering from its own history of oppression and violence.

» Research shows that AI/AN who meet criteria for depression/anxiety or substance use disorder are significantly more likely to seek help from traditional/spiritual healers than from other sources.

❖ **723,225** AI/ANs live in California

❖ **55,302** Medi-Cal enrollees who self-identify as AI/AN

Traditional Health Care Practices

- **Umbrella Term** for services provided by Traditional Healer and Natural Helper
 - Traditional Healer interventions include music therapy (e.g., traditional music and songs, dancing), spirituality (e.g., ceremonies, rituals, herbal remedies) and other integrative approaches
 - Natural Helper include assisting w/navigational support, psychosocial skill building self-management and trauma support that restores health.
- Billable under DMC ODS when **provided through Indian Health Care Providers** (IHCPs).
- Eligible members include:
 - Enrolled in Medi-Cal or CHIP in Los Angeles County
 - Able to receive services from an IHCP

Traditional Health Care Practitioners

- **Traditional Healer** is a person who:
 - Currently recognized as spiritual leader with a Native American tribe, Nation, Band, or Native community
 - Has (2) years of experience practicing in a recognized setting that is contracted or employed by an Indian Health Care Providers.
 - Has knowledge, skills and practices based on beliefs and experiences accepted by the Indian community as handed down through the generations
- **Natural Helper** is a person who:
 - A health advisor who seeks to deliver health, recovery, and social supports in context of Tribal culture
 - Contracted or employed by Indian Health Care Provider
 - Trusted member of a Native American Tribe, Nation, Band, or Native community
 - Could be a spiritual leader, elected official paraprofessional or other individual.

Ensuring Access to Continuum of Treatment Services

- » Participating IHCPs must provide, or coordinate with DMC-ODS counties to ensure access to, additional services to promote the **treatment of substance use disorders (SUDs)**, including:
 - Comprehensive **American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)** assessments to identify other SUD treatment needs;
 - **Medications for addiction treatment (MAT)**: services may be offered directly through the IHCP or there must be an effective MAT referral process in place; IHCP must implement and maintain a MAT policy; and
 - **Other DMC-ODS services**, as needed and desired by the member.

➤ **Additional Information:**

- Traditional Health Care services may only be provided through IHCPs
- LA County currently only has one IHCP – United America Indian Involvement
- All services then are considered out-of-network
- This benefit is included in the Behavioral Health Member Handbook.

➤ **Provider Responsibilities:**

- **Notify SAPC** when identify an eligible member requests Traditional Health Care services or when they receive the request from an IHCP.
- **Follow out-of-network** protocols outlined in the current Provider Manual.

If a county's provider network is unable to provide necessary and covered services to a beneficiary, the county must adequately and timely cover the services out-of-network for as long as the county is unable to provide them.

42 CFR Section 438.206

- An out-of-network provider is a provider that offers SUD treatment services but is not contracted with DPH SAPC.
- Medi-Cal members may be eligible to receive medically necessary DMC ODS services from out-of-network providers under certain circumstances.
- Providers should contact SAPCs Contracts and Compliance Division at (626) 299-4532 or email SAPCMonitoring@ph.lacounty.gov.

Eligible Reasons for Out-of-Network (OON) Services

1. American Indians/Alaskan Natives wishing to receive services from an **Indian Health Care Provider (IHCP)** that is not SAPC network provider.
2. There are **no services within time/distance standards** OR there is no SAPC-contracted provider who offers a required DMC ODS service.
3. When a person transferring to LA County from another county requires a **transition in care** due to a specific conditions (e.g., risk of serious health, hospitalization, or institutionalization) requiring they retain their current provider (from the other county) for a period of time.

Training Update

CLAS

Location: Almansor Court (In-person)

**“Breaking” Bias: Bias Management and Mitigation
by Dr. Marks**

Date: May 15, 2025 & June 5, 2025

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Registration: [Registration Link](#)

Focus on Finance

Location: Zoom

Focus on Finance Training

Date: May 27, 2025

Time: 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Registration: Registration link available soon.

Focus on Finance Training

Date: June 24, 2025

Time: 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Registration: Registration link available soon.

CIBHS CONTACT INFORMATION – ADD US TO YOUR CONTACTS!

Your Success Is Our Success!

We are here to support you, feel free to reach out

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