
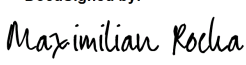


<b>BHS Policies and Procedures</b>	
	City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health San Francisco Health Network BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
1380 Howard Street, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94103 (628) 754-9500 FAX (628) 754-9585	
<b>Policy or Procedure Title:</b> Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Priority Population and Interim Services	
<b>Issued By:</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin: 5px 0;">                     DocuSigned by:                        EB51A346C32641B...                 </div> Maximilian Rocha, LCSW BHS Director of Systems of Care  Date: November 26, 2024	<b>Manual Number:</b> 3.04-12  <b>References:</b> <a href="#">45 C.F.R. Sec. 96.121</a> , <a href="#">45 C.F.R. Sec. 96.124</a> , <a href="#">45 C.F.R. Sec. 96.131</a>

**New Policy**

**Equity Statement:** The San Francisco Department of Public Health, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is committed to leading with race and prioritizing Intersectionality, including sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, class, nationality, language, and ability. BHS strives to move forward on the continuum of becoming an anti-racist institution through dismantling racism, building solidarity among racial groups, and working towards becoming a Trauma-Informed/Trauma Healing Organization in partnership with staff, members, communities, and our contractors. We are committed to ensuring that every policy or procedure, developed and implemented, leads with an equity and anti-racist lens. Our policies will provide the highest quality of care for our diverse members. We are dedicated to ensuring that our providers are equipped to provide services that are responsive to our members’ needs and lived experiences.

**Purpose:** To provide guidance for programs in identifying priority populations, outline the requirements for admission, and provide interim services for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) members who qualify for priority services.

**Scope:** BHS Substance Use Programs

**Policy:** San Francisco Behavioral Health Services defines our priority populations as 1) pregnant people and women with dependent children who use substances and 2) people who inject drugs. These priority populations shall receive priority admissions. When treatment is delayed, interim services shall be provided.

**Procedure:**

1. Priority Populations:
  - a. Priority members will be identified through self-disclosure at the time of assessment, during screening, or through referral sources. All San Francisco residents who are Medi-Cal eligible, as defined by the [San Francisco Residency and County-of-Medi-Cal Eligibility Requirements to Receive San Francisco Behavioral Health Services Policy](#)), will receive services. Members who

are seeking services but reside outside San Francisco will be assisted in transitioning their care to the appropriate county of residence.

Priority Admission will be given to:

- i. Pregnant people and women with dependent children who use substances<sup>1</sup>.
- ii. People who inject drugs.

2. Priority Admission:

- a. Agencies must identify members belonging to priority populations who experience admission delays and notify the SUD System of Care (SOC) Program Managers for coordination. All pregnant people and women with dependent children will be admitted according to their ASAM level of care.
- b. Individuals who inject drugs, but are not pregnant or parenting mothers, must be admitted as follows:
  - i. While the Substance Use Block Grant (SUBG) requires admission within 14 days of a service request, the San Francisco Substance Use Disorder (SUD) System of Care adheres to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines, which mandate access to services within 10 days of a member’s request.

3. Interim Services:

SF-BHS will provide interim services within 48 hours of a member’s request for services to pregnant individuals, parenting mothers, and people who inject drugs, while they await admission into treatment. The purpose of providing interim services is to reduce the adverse health effects of substance use, promote overall health, and minimize the risk of disease transmission.

Interim services include, at a minimum:

Interim Service	Details	Priority Population
<b>Counseling and Education</b>	- Information on the risks and prevention of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) transmission. - Education on the risks associated with needle-sharing. - Education about the risks of transmission of infectious diseases to sexual partners and infants.	Individuals who inject drugs and pregnant individuals or parenting women who use substances
<b>Referrals</b>	- Referral for HIV services (see Addendum: HIV Services Available in San Francisco) or tuberculosis services (refer to the <a href="#">Tuberculosis Screening &amp; Testing for Substance Use Disorder Services Residential Programs Policy</a> ), if needed.  - Referral for prenatal care within 48 hours for pregnant women seeking treatment, with Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital’s Family Birth Center (Labor & Delivery) as the preferred provider (628-206-9806).	Individuals who inject drugs and pregnant individuals or parenting women who use substances, but prenatal care is specific to pregnant individuals

<sup>1</sup> This policy applies to individuals of all gender identities capable of giving birth.

	- Referrals based on individual assessments, including but not limited to: self-help recovery groups, pre-recovery and treatment support groups, housing, food, legal aid, case management, children's services (888-246-3333), medical services, and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)/Medi-Cal services.	
<b>Case Management and Access to Services</b>	- Sufficient case management and transportation to ensure that women and their children have access to the services provided.	Pregnant individuals and parenting women who use substances

**Definitions:**

- SUD – Substance Use Disorder
- Priority Members – Priority member populations include pregnant individuals, women with dependent children, women attempting to regain custody of their children, postpartum women and their children, women with substance-exposed infants, people who inject drugs, and members being discharged from inpatient medical detoxification.
- Dependent Children – A child under the age of 18 who is either the biological or adopted child of the member, or for whom the member is the legal guardian. The child must currently reside with the member, be actively involved in the Child Welfare System, or be part of an ongoing informal reunification process with the member.
- Interim Services – Interim Services, or Interim Use Services, refer to services provided until an individual is admitted to a substance use treatment program. These services must be provided within 48 hours of the member’s request for services and aim to reduce the adverse health effects of substance use, promote the individual's health, and reduce the risk of disease transmission. They include counseling, education, and referrals to necessary health services (e.g., HIV testing or prenatal care).
- Distinction Between SUD Interim Services and Emergency Services – SUD Interim Services help bridge the gap while waiting for full treatment, whereas emergency services are for critical situations that need immediate attention to save a life or prevent serious harm. If you believe emergency services are required, please dial 911 or direct the member to the nearest emergency room.

**Authority:** 45 C.F.R. Sec. 96.121, 45 C.F.R. Sec. 96.124, 45 C.F.R. Sec. 96.131, SUBG Policy Manual 3.0

**Contact Person:** SF County Alcohol and Other Drug Administrator

**Attachment(s):** Priority Populations - HIV Services Addendum

**Distribution:**

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