



# Updated DHCS Guidance and Future Impact on Residential Member Authorizations

Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health  
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

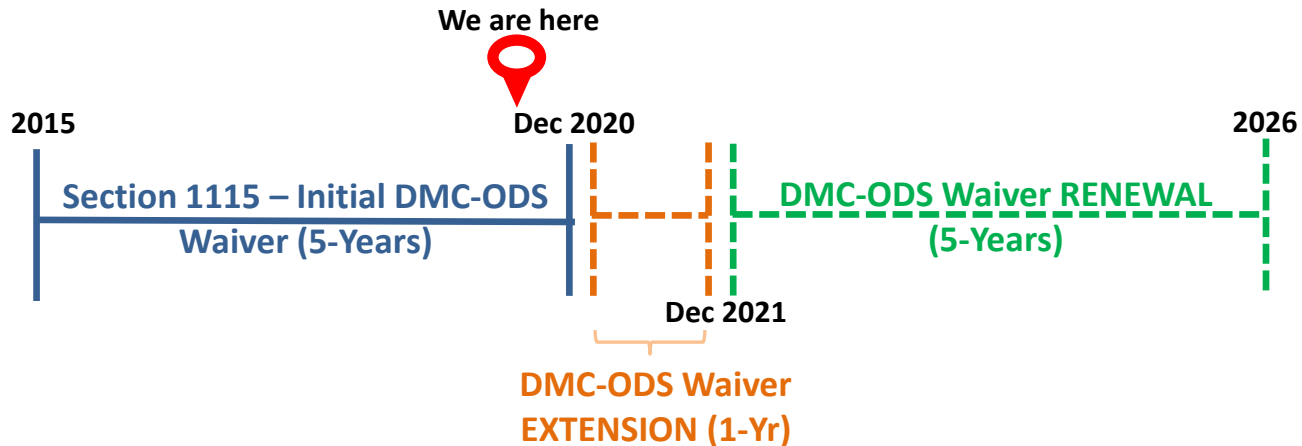




# Review of DHCS Updates



# DMC-ODS Waiver Extension is HERE



- LA County launched DMC-ODS in July 2017, with an initial end date of December 2020
- Currently, there is an additional year extension that began on January 1, 2021



## As Part of the Waiver Extension...

### – Residential Changes

- Modification to the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) to suspend the limitation on 2 non-continuous 90-day residential episodes that are DMC reimbursable along with the 30-day (for adolescents) and 90-day (for adults) maximums for a single residential stay
- Set the goal for a 30-day statewide average length of stay



## Patterns of Residential Treatment Utilization (Fiscal Year 2019-2020)

- Average residential length of stay (LOS) for adults and youth
  - Total (both youth and adult): 50 days
  - Youth (12-20): 41 days
  - Adult (21+): 50 days



## Patterns of Residential Treatment Utilization (Fiscal Year 2019-2020)

- When removing outliers (i.e. patients who have residential stays < 1 week):
- Total (both youth and adult): 55 days
  - Youth (12-20): 47 days
  - Adult (21+): 55 days



# Patterns of Residential Treatment Utilization (Fiscal Year 2019-2020)

- Differences Between Residential Levels of Care
- Residential 3.1 all admissions:
  - Total (both youth and adult): 49 days (54 days)\*
    - Youth (12-20): 45 days (52 days)
    - Adult (21+): 50 days (55 days)
- Residential 3.3 all admissions:
  - Total (both youth and adult): 46 days (52 days)
    - Youth (12-20): 23 days (23 days)
    - Adult (21+): 47 days (53 days)

\* Numbers in parentheses reflect averages after excluding residential stays  $\leq$  7 days



## Patterns of Residential Treatment Utilization (Fiscal Year 2019-2020)

- Differences Between Residential Levels of Care
- Residential 3.5 all admissions (&  $\geq 7$ ):
  - Total (both youth and adult): 47 days (52 days)
    - Youth (12-20): 38 days (42 days)
    - Adult (21+): 47 days (53 days)
- Overall, 3.3 and 3.5 have shorter length of stay durations (especially for youth populations)





# How would this impact residential providers?

## – Shift in Length of Initial Residential Admissions

- Currently, initial adult residential admissions have a maximum duration of 60-days
- To support the 30-day statewide average goal, the maximum duration for initial adult residential admissions would decrease to 30-days
- No proposed changes for adolescent initial residential admissions (already at 30-day initial maximum)



## How would this impact residential providers?

- **What about continuing residential service requests?**
  - Providers could submit reauthorization requests if additional treatment time is needed within a residential setting due to ongoing clinical need
  - However, providers should continue to evaluate if SUD treatment needs can be met at a lower LOC before extending residential treatment



## When would this go into effect?

- Beginning in January 2021, SAPC is working with the PAC to obtain provider input on how to meet this state LOS average
- There is no current start date for this proposed change.
- However, we will update providers when this would go into effect in the context of our ongoing work with the PAC.



## In summary

- With the waiver extension-
  - There are no longer DMC reimbursement caps to residential services
  - However, there is a statewide goal to achieve a 30-day average LOS
- SAPC is proposing reducing the initial adult residential admission duration from 60-days → 30-days
- There is no current timeframe for when this would go in effect, and we are working with the PAC to obtain provider input on achieving this reduced average LOS goal.