POLICY: Tuberculosis (TB) Services for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Clients

It is the policy of Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBHCS) to routinely make available tuberculosis services to each individual receiving treatment for substance use disorders (SUD), as well as those seeking admission to treatment but who are denied immediate access due to lack of capacity of the program, as required by the Federal Code of Regulations (CFR) 45, part 96.127.

This policy is designed to ensure that ACBHCS and its contracted SUD treatment providers are aware of health screening and medical services in Alameda County for those at risk of, and who have been infected with TB, that they establish positive referral relationships with providers of those services, and that they link patients to TB screening, counseling and medical treatment for TB as needed.

PROCEDURE:

Contracted SUD providers are required to provide the following services:

1. Provide counseling and education about the risks of TB infection to all new clients, as well as applicants who are placed on waiting lists due to lack of capacity;
2. Provide access to TB screening within the time frames established by state SUD program licensing regulations for residential treatment facilities which specify:
   a. All new clients must be screened for TB within 30 days after admission, unless: They have been screened within the previous six months prior to admission and a record of the results of that screening can be obtained by the program;
   b. Individuals with a known history of exposure to TB may forego additional screening if they have documentation from their physician that they have been or are being treated and pose no threat of contagion to others;
3. Provide a referral to a medical clinic or other agency that can provide TB screening to all prospective clients placed on waiting lists for SUD treatment;
4. Implement infection control procedures established by the California Department of Public Health/Tuberculosis Control Officer that include:
   • Screening of clients for symptoms associated to TB;
   • Identifying clients who are at high risk of becoming infected with TB;
   • Meeting all state reporting requirements of persons with active TB, while complying with Federal and State SUD program confidentiality regulations including 42 CFR Part 2 and HIPAA.
5. Conduct case management activities to ensure that clients who need TB treatment receive it;
6. Refer clients to other entities for services including public health facilities, primary health care facilities, local clinics, or medical treatment facilities; and

ACBHCS provides resources and access to resources through the Alameda County Public Health website, local clinics, hospitals and other medical service providers.

ACBHCS monitors SUD contract providers' compliance with these requirements through annual contract monitoring activities conducted by the Network Office. Requirements for these TB services are detailed in Exhibit A-1, Additional Terms and Conditions, which is a part of every contract for SUD treatment services.