

The Medical Director in DMC-ODS

12/20/21

"The physician licensed to practice medicine in California who is responsible for medical services provided by the program."

Evolving Role:

Pre- DMC-ODS, focus was to sign treatment plans

Post-DMC-ODS:

- Help integrate SUD system specialty into the greater healthcare system
- Provide input and expertise to make a positive impact on administrative and service delivery levels
- Perform broader functions within agency that others are unable to perform due to licensure and scope of practice limitations

Recommended Responsibilities (acting alone or through an organized medical staff):

- Assist/support other professional staff with challenging cases (e.g., case conferences, refractory SUD, co-occurring conditions, specialty populations)
- Conduct clinical trainings on issues relevant to staff (e.g., documentation, ASAM Criteria, DSM-5, MAT, WM, co-occurring mental health conditions)
- Provide clinical supervision for staff
- Refer/treat co-occurring physical and mental health conditions
- Lead Quality Improvement functions/projects (e.g., Quality Improvement Projects, leading clinical team meetings, etc)
- Provide physical exams, when necessary*
- Provide Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT), when clinically necessary*
- Provide withdrawal management, when clinically necessary*
- Attend annually at least 5 hours of continuing medical education on addiction medicine (required)

**Requires separate provider IMS certification in Residential programs*

Quality Assurance Oversight to Ensure:

- Quality of medical care provided by licensed staff meets applicable standard of care
- Physicians are not delegating their duties
- Medical policies and standards are established, reviewed and maintained for the provider
- Medical personnel follow medical policies and standards
- Medical decisions are not influenced by fiscal considerations
- Physicians follow the [Physician Self-Referral \("Stark"\) Law](#)
- Physicians are adequately trained to perform diagnosis of SUD and to determine medical necessity
- Delegated duties to physicians are properly performed
- Develop the medical policies and standards of how the program applies regulations

Recruitment Strategies:

- Residency and Addiction Medicine / Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship programs
- Contact local doctor's offices near treatment programs
- Personal networks of physicians and colleagues
- SAMHSA Buprenorphine Treatment Practitioner Locator <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/physician-program-data/treatment-physician-locator>

For more detailed duties of the Medical Director, please refer to Section G of the SUDPOH.