

SUD Medical Directors COVID-19 WebEx
Thursday, September 17, 2020 | 1-2pm
Executive Summary

Dr. Nicole Esposito, County Behavioral Health Services Department (BHS) Assistant Clinical Director, convenes DMC-ODS Medical Directors (MDs) on a bi-weekly basis via WebEx to provide updates regarding the County's COVID-19 response efforts as well as to dialog on issues faced by MDs during the COVID-19 emergency. The group reconvened on Thursday, September 17th at 1pm.

As requested at the September 3rd meeting, this meeting focused on OTPs, specifically CDPH's recent notification regarding Hep C/HIV treatment requirement at opioid treatment programs (OTP) effective January 2021. OTP MDs were particularly encouraged to join for this discussion. The following materials were sent out in advance of the meeting:

[HIV/HCV Testing & Linkages in Narcotic Treatment Programs CDPH Webinar](#)

(Password: HCV4NTPs)



HCV Resources for
NTPs.pdf



HIV-HCV for NTPs
Slides.pdf

[DHCS-14-026](#) states **testing** and **linkage** to Hep C and HIV care and treatment, if appropriate is required effective January 2021. OTPs have options of how they want to link to treatment (internally or externally). The DHCS presentation (copy attached) lists some options if the providers want to integrate treatment into the OTPs, but it is not required.

The MDs dialogue included test reimbursement as well as clients' rights to take medications.

As a follow up to the meeting: The hepatitis C virus, tuberculosis and syphilis laboratory tests are required laboratory tests for patient admission. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) laboratory test is optional in accordance with HSC Division 105, Part 4, Chapter 7 and this test should be offered during patient selection.

Current COVID-19 numbers can be accessed anytime via the [County of San Diego's ArcGIS COVID-19 Dashboard](#).