



Up To The Minute!

TRAINING & EVENTS (QA)

SmartCare User Group Meeting – July 2025 Session

- Wednesday, July 16, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Link: [Join the meeting now](#)

SUD Quality Improvement Partners (QIP) Meeting

- Thursday, July 24, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

NEW: Skill Building Workshops in August 2025

- Outpatient Quality of Care
 - Monday, August 18, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Residential Quality of Care
 - Monday, August 25, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Save the Date: Annual DMC-ODS Training

The seventh annual DMC-ODS Training will take the place of the August SUD Quality Improvement Partners (SUD QIP) meeting. The presentation will review data from the seventh year of DMC-ODS implementation, areas for quality improvement in the new Fiscal Year, and DMC-ODS and CalAIM requirements. Intended audience is Program Management and Quality Improvement/Assurance Staff.



- ❖ Date: **Thursday, August 28, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.**
- ❖ Where: via Microsoft Teams – Registration is required.
- ❖ Registration link and information forthcoming!

UPDATES & REMINDERS (QA)

Update: SUDPOH

- The SUDPOH was updated for July 2025.
- This edition along with the Summary of Changes are now posted on the Optum site.
- The next edition of the SUDPOH is planned for release in August 2025.

Reminder: Quality Assurance Program Review (QAPR)

- The new fiscal year is upon us and the record review season will begin this month
- Keep a look out for communications from your QA Specialist to schedule your program's Quality Assurance Program Review (QAPR).

Enhanced Community Health Workers

A new benefit for Medi-Cal members—Enhanced Community Health Workers (E-CHWs)—has been added to the FY 2025–26 fee schedules and BHS Invoice/Budget documents. Additional guidance on this role, including requirements and implementation details, will be shared with providers soon.



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Perinatal Services in NTPs

A process has been developed to address payment for perinatal services in NTPs. All perinatal services are determined on the backend via an HD modifier. Currently, the only source from which this modifier can be pulled is the [SmartCare Client Clinical Problem List](#).

To correctly trigger the HD modifier, the following code must be entered in the Problem List: **SNOMED Code:** 248985009 – Presentation of pregnancy (finding). This is linked to **ICD-10 Code:** Z34.90 –

Encounter for supervision of normal pregnancy, unspecified. This is currently the only way SmartCare can recognize a program as perinatal certified and apply the HD modifier accordingly.

An email was distributed to NTP Providers on this topic on June 27, 2025. A tip sheet will be available soon and posted to Optum.

Program's Potential use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has growing potential in SUD treatment programs, and we recognize some programs may already be using it to enhance services and efficiency. While QA will not review AI-specific Policies & Procedures (P&Ps) this year, programs are strongly encouraged to develop a P&P addressing AI use.

- State legislation to be aware of in relation to AI:
 - AB 3030 – Clients must be informed when AI is used and how to reach an actual person.
 - AB 489 – AI cannot present itself as a licensed professional, especially in promotional materials or in conversations.



Reminder: Telehealth Consents

As a reminder, as per SUDPOH E.8 and BHIN 23-018, prior to initial delivery of covered services via telehealth, providers are required to obtain verbal or written consent for the use of telehealth as an acceptable mode of delivering services, and must explain the following to beneficiaries:

- The beneficiary has a right to access covered services in person.
- Use of telehealth is voluntary and consent for the use of telehealth can be withdrawn at any time without affecting the beneficiary's ability to access Medi-Cal covered services in the future.
- Non-medical transportation benefits are available for in-person visits.
- Any potential limitations or risks related to receiving covered services through telehealth as compared to an in-person visit, if applicable.

BHIN Highlights: See all of the 2025 Behavioral Health Information Notices at [2025-BH-Information-Notices \(DHCS\)](#).

- BHIN 25-008: Narcotic Treatment Programs Regulation Changes
- BHIN 25-019: Transgender, Gender Diverse, or Intersex Cultural Competency Training Program Requirements. These requirements are being further reviewed by BHS. Additional information to follow.



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Billing Add-On Codes

Please note that add-on codes may only be billed once the minimum time requirement for the primary CPT code has been met.

POPULATION HEALTH – NETWORK QUALITY & PLANNING

1. Peer Support Services

Increase the percentage of members with a substance use disorder (SUD) diagnosis who receive at least one Peer Support Service by 5%.

UCSD Health Services Research Center (HSRC), in collaboration with BHS, identified the pre-baseline data for the PIP design report. They also submitted a draft for the PIP design to BHS for review. Next steps include assembling a PIP workgroup and finalizing the PIP design report for final submission in July.

2. Follow-up after Emergency Department Visit for Substance Use (FUA)

Increase the percentage of adult, Medi-Cal eligible clients from pilot Emergency Departments (EDs) who receive services from the DMC-ODS within 7 and 30 days after an ED visit for Substance Use.

The UCSD team submitted a draft for the PIP design submission to BHS for review. UCSD received the CalMHSA HEDIS rates for MY 2023 and MY 2024 to include as pre-baseline data for the PIP design report. The UCSD PIP team continues to attend the Healthy San Diego Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Workgroup with the goal of learning and sharing what each Health Plan is doing for the State-mandated PIP topics and interventions. Next steps include working on identifying possible interventions.



For more information on the PIP process go to [HSAG PIP](#)
If you have further questions, please contact bhspophealth.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov

RESOURCES & SUPPORT (QA)

Recent Communications

- **06/26/2025** – DMC-ODS Providers: Member Handbook Update effective July 1, 2025
- *Bring questions to the next QIP meeting.*

Resources

- [Behavioral Health Information Notices \(BHINs\)](#) – DHCS notifies County BH Plans and providers of P&P changes via BHIN's as well as draft BHIN's for public input. Feedback can be sent directly to DHCS or BHS-HPA.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.



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- **System of Care (SOC) Application** – Reminder for required monthly attestation in the SOC application. See [SOC Tips & Resources Optum page](#) for more information.
- **Medi-Cal Transformation** (aka **CalAIM**) – info also available at the [Optum CalAIM Webpage for BHS Providers](#) for updates on Certified Peer Support Services implementation, CPT Coding, Payment Reform, Required Trainings, and relevant BHINs from DHCS. For general questions on local implementation of Medi-Cal Transformation, email: BHS-HPA.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Email Contacts

- ARFs and Access questions? Contact: BHS_EHRAccessRequest.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov
- EHR questions? Contact: BHS_EHRSupport.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov
- Billing questions? Contact: ADSBillingUnit.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov
- CalAIM Q&As? Contact: bhs-hpa.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov
- DMC-ODS Standards/SUDPOH/SUDURM questions? Contact: QIMatters.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov

Is this information filtering down to your counselors, LPHAs, and administrative staff?
Please share the UTTM – SUD Provider Edition with your staff and keep them **Up to the Minute!**
Send all personnel contact updates to QIMatters.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov