



Policy Bulletin

Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

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SCA Overdose Requirements

DDAP defines an overdose as a situation in which an individual is in a state requiring emergency medical intervention as a result of the use of drugs or alcohol. Specific examples may be seen in the ICD-10 diagnosis codes for substance overdose or poisoning.

In order to ensure expedient and appropriate care for an individual who has overdosed, SCAs must develop and maintain a current listing of contact information for all local contracted facilities providing drug and alcohol screening, assessment, and treatment. Contact information must include types of services provided, phone numbers, and addresses of these facilities. Distribution of the contact information to key referral agencies will assist in facilitating the smooth transition from emergency room visits to substance abuse treatment. Therefore, no later than January 31, 2014, SCAs must distribute the referral listing to all emergency rooms, urgent care facilities, and other primary referral sources within the SCA's geographic area. On at least an annual basis, the SCA must document that the contact listing has been reviewed and revised as needed. As any revisions are made to the referral listing, the SCA must redistribute the updated listing to the aforementioned referral sources.

In addition, the SCA must develop procedures to: 1) ensure up to date contact information is provided to urgent/emergent care facilities and other primary referral sources; 2) describe the process to access care in their locale during business hours, and if different, during evenings and holidays; 3) allow priority access to substance abuse treatment for those being referred by an emergency room following an overdose; and 4) describe the process of access to care for insured and uninsured individuals to be included with the list of contracted providers given to urgent/emergent care facilities and other primary referral sources.

It should be noted that the federal block grant requirements related to priority populations and preference to treatment remain in effect. DDAP is identifying individuals who have overdosed

as an additional priority. Admission to treatment for individuals who have overdosed must be considered in conjunction with the requirements delineated in Part Five of the DDAP Treatment Manual.

These changes have been made in the Treatment Manual as Part Nine, 9.01A and Part Ten, 10.01A on the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Communicator, and are effective January 3, 2014.