

**San Mateo County
Alcohol and Other Drug Services**

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

AOD Policy NO.: SMCAOD 1-A_2008

SUBJECT: Policy related to consumers receiving Narcotic Replacement Therapy (NRT)

AUTHORITY: County of San Mateo, Alcohol and Drug Services

SUPERSEDES: New Policy

PURPOSE: To ensure continuity of care for consumers receiving NRT with integrated levels of care

POLICY

San Mateo County Alcohol and Other Drug Services and any entity receiving public funding from San Mateo County shall adhere to the following requirements:

1. Narcotic replacement programs (formerly known as methadone programs) are the preferred treatment for opiate dependence. It is the policy of San Mateo County Alcohol and Drug Services that services to qualified consumers not be delayed / withheld due to the consumer's medical status as it relates to narcotic replacement drugs (Methadone Maintenance or Buprenorphine).
2. A consumer actively seeking Non-residential or Residential treatment can have concurrent Narcotic Replacement Therapy (NRT) detox or maintenance under certain conditions and on a case by case basis. All applicable laws regulating the practice of medicine and narcotic treatment programs will be followed. Consumers in residential treatment who are eligible for methadone treatment must comply with the established guidelines as outlined in the California Code of Regulations Title 9 Narcotic Treatment Programs.
3. All consumers with an identified Primary Opiate dependence shall be notified of the following:
 - a. NRT is the most widely known and well researched treatment for opiate dependency
 - b. A referral to the methadone clinic or appropriate medical practitioner will be made upon the consumer's request and by the current provider.

Treatment providers shall also develop guidelines and procedures consistent with County Policy.

Any consumer who feels that they have been denied services in other modalities of treatment services (outpatient services, residential services, day treatment, etc.) due to their participation in a Narcotic Treatment Program may contact the Alcohol & Drug Administrator at 650-802-6400 to file a complaint. Narcotic Treatment Providers are also encouraged to report any perceived violation of this policy.

Name / Title

Signature

Date

Revised 7/18/07