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**Federal Parity Expands Coverage for Substance Use Disorders**


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Federal Parity has established guidelines for covering the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD): "If a plan provides any benefits for a substance use disorder, benefits must be provided for that condition or disorder in each classification for which and medical/surgical benefits are provided." Currently the two classifications are inpatient and outpatient.

While Federal Parity does not specifically address the coverage of residential or intensive outpatient treatment, most of the new benefit plans in California are providing coverage for those levels of care.

While not 100% of members qualify for Federal Parity, a significant percentage of members who previously only had coverage for medical detoxification now have coverage for SUD rehabilitation.

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**Substance Abuse Screening Tools for Opiate and Alcohol Abuse and Dependency**


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In support of the expanded benefit coverage for SUD, CHIPA is encouraging enhanced screening for these disorders.

The following brochures are available to providers at no cost:

***Alcohol – It May Be Legal But It Can Hurt Your Health***  
***Opiates – When Pain Medications Become A Problem***

The brochures are colorful and include information about Alcohol and Opiate Abuse; a self-screening tool; and resource information. They can be left in a front office as "reading material" and/or given directly to a patient or family member.

**For copies of the brochures, please call CHIPA Provider Relations, 800-779-3825 Option 6, Option 3.**

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**Reporting of Primary or Secondary Substance Abuse Diagnoses**


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When diagnoses of substance abuse are not coded on claims the result is a significant under-reporting of the prevalence and cost associated with these disorders. In order to develop a realistic understanding of the impact of SUD on treatment outcomes, CHIPA is asking providers to include all secondary diagnoses of SUD on the claim. Below is a quick reference table.

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Abuse Diagnosis</b>	<b>Dependency Diagnosis</b>
Alcohol	305.00	303.90
Opiates	305.50	304.00
Sedative, Hypnotic	305.40	304.10
Cocaine	305.60	304.20
Cannabis (Marijuana)	305.20	304.30
Amphetamines	305.70	304.40
Hallucinogen	305.30	304.50
Poly-substance/Other	305.90	304.80