

Provider Bulletin # 17-04
**The Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual
disAbility Services (DBHIDS)**
Community Behavioral Health

**Halfway House (2b) Providers Required to Accept Individuals on All
Forms of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

April 7, 2017

As of June 1, 2017, all Community Behavioral Health (CBH) in-network providers who contract for Halfway House (2b) level of care will be required to accept individuals on all forms of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). This includes but is not limited to methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone, or any other medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a substance use disorder.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is an evidence-based practice that combines pharmacological interventions with substance use counseling and social support. Although it may not be the treatment of choice for everyone, it is an essential part of the continuum of services available to CBH members struggling with addiction to alcohol or other drugs. CBH requests that all treatment providers continue to educate their staff and members about the complete array of treatment options available to treat substance use disorders. Additional information about MAT can be found here: [Challenging the Myths about MAT for Opioid Use Disorder](#).

The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and require that each individual's ability to take part in specific activities be evaluated objectively. Denying access to a level of care because an individual is receiving MAT violates this Act, whether the denial is based on a provider wide policy or executed on a case-by-case basis without the required objective, individualized evaluation. Refusing admission into a halfway house because an individual is receiving MAT ignores evidence-based practices that have proven successful in the treatment of individuals with a substance use disorder.

This contractual change will ensure that CBH members receiving MAT have full access to all available substance use services. Please direct questions regarding this Bulletin to your assigned provider representative.