

**LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PLAN**

Departmental Purpose:

To provide psychosocial services to meet the needs of patients admitted to the hospital or seen in outpatient clinics identified as having an addiction or a strong dependence which has led to the abuse of alcohol and/or drugs. LAC+USC Medical Center Clinical Social Work Department does not provide direct substance abuse treatment. Patients are screened and referred to community agencies for treatment at the level of care indicated.

Types and Ages of Patients Served:

Clinical Social Work Staff serves patients in all age groups who are referred by the health care team. Patients are seen on a priority basis according to “high risk” criteria which emphasizes their psychosocial vulnerability and ability to cope with the stresses of illness and disease.

Scope of Service and Complexity of Care:

To reduce the frequency of hospitalization and increase abstention from substance abuse, Clinical Social Work will provide services, which will include psychosocial assessments, education and referrals to appropriate agencies as follows:

1. Complete a discharge and/or psychosocial assessment on each patient.
2. Complete a chemical dependency assessment which will include a history of substance abuse, previous treatment and outcome, physical and emotional problems stemming from the use of substance abuse, and any history of physical abuse or sexual abuse.
3. Involve patients in the treatment plan and goals to the fullest extent.
4. Provide and utilize a variety of treatment modalities to assist the patient in enhancing their coping skills and achieving their goals.
5. Identify and inform patient and family of support services and programs available to them for which they are eligible.
6. Assist patient and family members with information and education regarding his/her condition.
7. Provide community referrals for In-patient/Out-patient agencies when it is indicated.

Recognized Standards:

Clinical Social Workers have Master of Social Work degree from graduate schools sanctioned by the Council on Social Work Education. Graduate employees are license eligible under provisions of the California State Board of Behavioral Science. Upon completion of 3200 hours of supervised Recognized Standards (cont.): internship and successful completion of written and oral examinations they become Licensed Clinical Social Workers. Eligibility is maintained by accumulating 36 Counting Education Units every two years. The National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics defines Professional ethical standards, and the American Hospital Association’s Society of Social Work Administrators in Health Care Organizations recommends

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professional and functional standards of practice. Title 22 defines standards for Social Work service in hospitals and clinics, as does The Joint Commission.

Substance Abuse Counselors are certified by the State as Certified Alcohol Drug Counselors, The certification requires completion of education as well as a practicum and supervised experience. Medical Case Workers and clerical staff are provided on the job training in the principals of social work and are held to the same standards as the professional staff wherever they apply, such as, ethics, deportment, non-judgmental attitude, and supportive behavior toward clients.

Availability of Necessary Staff:

Staff are available on wards and in clinics throughout the Medical Center in various concentrations depending on the type of service supported by the local organization, the complexity of problems encountered by patients and families, the urgency of the health problem, and the acuity of psychosocial issues. Areas with more complex issues are served by licensed staff, while other areas are provided care by non-licensed staff. Both levels refer to the other as needed.