

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**  
**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES****SUBJECT:** ELIGIBILITY FOR METHADONE MAINTENANCE  
SERVICES**POLICY NO. 517**

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**PURPOSE::** To establish a policy for the provision of Methadone Maintenance services to patients who do not cooperate in payment procedures in accordance with their established financial liabilities under the Methadone Program ability-to-pay determination.

**POLICY::** In addition to the requirements for receipt of non-emergent care as established in Policy No. 516, Methadone Maintenance patients shall also be required to meet their ability-to-pay determination obligations as a condition for continued participation in the Methadone Maintenance Program. When it is determine that a Methadone Maintenance patient has not satisfactorily met his/her ability-to-pay obligation he/she shall be provided with a notice of involuntary termination and written explanation of rights to a Fair Hearing. If the patient submits a written request for a Fair Hearing within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the termination notice, a Fair Hearing shall be conducted in accordance with established Methadone Maintenance Fair Hearing procedures and medication dispensed unaltered. If the patient does not request a Fair Hearing within the specific time specified or the Fair Hearing decision is to terminate, detoxification will commence in accordance with California State regulations for the Methadone Program to be scheduled for not less than fifteen (15) days. This period of time may be extended if warranted by the patient's social/medical circumstances.

A patient that has been involuntarily terminated for nonpayment of ability-to-pay determination obligations may, after ninety (90) days, apply for readmission to the program and be added to a waiting list for evaluation for re-entry to the program provided all back payments are paid and re-assessment for ability-to-pay is completed.

**CROSS  
REFERENCE::** Policy 516

**AUTHORITY::** California Administrative Code, Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter 6, Article 14, Sections 1180 and 1181; and Article 24, Sections 1290, 1291 and 1292

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**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Sep 01, 1979

**SUPERCEDES:**

**APPROVED:** Signature on File

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