



*Printed copies are for reference only.
Please refer to the electronic copy of this policy for the latest version.*

Purpose:

To describe the purpose of the Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing within the Bridge Clinic and related protocols for treating patients.

Policy Applies: *(check all that apply)*

- All Staff
- Administrative Staff
- Clinical Staff
- Providers
- Board of Directors
- Only applies to this or these sites: _____

Policy:

- **What is Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing?**
 - Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing is when a patient self-administers a daily dose of their medication while a staff member witnesses them doing so over a telemedicine visit
- **Determining if a patient needs Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing:**
 - There is a strong suspicion for diversion of their medication and they are actively using illicit substances
 - It is known that the patient has diverted their medication and they are actively using illicit substances
 - A patient is unable to keep their medication safe
 - A patient has ongoing illicit substance use without improvement despite attempts to engage the patient in group, meetings or counseling
 - A patient has successfully completed Witnessed Daily Dosing and struggles with transportation to the Bridge Clinic location
 - Successful indicates that the patient has attended all office visits with the responsible provider and attended all Witnessed Daily Dosing visits on time
 - Their confirmation urine drug testing shows presence of buprenorphine and appropriate metabolites
 - The patient must be on Buprenorphine-Naloxone films
- **What are the patient expectations?**
 - Patients will sign the Behavioral Plan for Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing
 - The patient will work with the Bridge Clinic Coordinator to determine a time for their Witnessed Daily Dosing
 - The patient will pick up their dose from PCH Center pharmacy and bring it to the Bridge Clinic for their medication to be numbered and signed by a bridge Clinic staff member

- The patient will login to a telemedicine visit during a predetermined time and self-administer their dose while the Bridge Clinic staff member observes them for 5-10 minutes while their medication is absorbed
- The patient will provide a mouth check if requested by Bridge Clinic Staff
- The patient will maintain a functioning device to complete a telehealth visit
- The patient will maintain a wifi or cell signal to complete a telehealth visit
- All other behavior expectations for Bridge Clinic will apply
- **Work flow for Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing:**
 - Patient is determined to need Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing by the team
 - The patient has been determined to have a transportation barrier to continue with Witnessed Daily Dosing on site
 - The patient has successfully completed Witnessed Daily Dosing and the team has discussed the case in huddle to determine if they are appropriate to advance for Telehealth Daily Dosing
 - The responsible provider is expected to meet with the patient *at* least weekly for office visits with the patient. The provider will document a rationale for any deviance from this frequency
 - The responsible provider and the clinical lead, Bridge Clinic Coordinator or LCSW will review this with the patient
 - If the responsible provider is unavailable, the clinical lead *and* the Bridge Clinic Coordinator or LCSW/LCPC/LADC will review this with the patient
 - The patient expectations behavioral plan is reviewed with the patient and signed
 - The responsible provider will prescribe a one week supply of medication
 - The patient will pick up their prescription at PCH Center pharmacy and bring this to the Bridge Clinic immediately after obtaining their prescription for the medication to be labeled and initialed
 - The medication will be numbered 1-7 and initialed by a staff member
 - The patient will take their first dose (labeled 1) on site following Witnessed Daily Dosing protocols
 - If the patient does not present to the Bridge Clinic **during** the pre-determined time they will not be dosed and be in violation of their behavioral plan. The patient will not receive further prescriptions. The patient will be reviewed at the team huddle to determine next steps The Bridge Clinic staff that is witnessing the dosing will have the patient show the inside of their mouth with the strip or tablet in place. The patient will not be allowed to touch their face once the strip or tablet is in their mouth. After the 5-10 minutes the staff will check the patient's mouth again to witness either a dissolved strip or tablet.
 - The strip or tablet may still be present at the end of the 5-10 minute mark. This is still considered a successful witnessed dose.
 - The patient will sit with an employee of the Bridge Clinic and monitored for 5-10 minutes after taking their dose during their onsite dosing
 - The patient will stay on video with Bridge Clinic staff for 5-10 minutes for monitoring during their telehealth visit
 - If the patient does not maintain their device or signal to complete their telehealth visit they will not receive further prescriptions. Their case will be reviewed at the next huddle
 - All other Bridge Clinic expectations apply during daily dosing

How long does a patient participate in Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing?

- A patient will need to participate in Telehealth Witnessed Daily Dosing for a minimum of two weeks
 - If the patient has been successful, the responsible provider will bring the case to huddle and review with the team to advance the patient to twice weekly visits
 - Twice weekly visits will include *at least* one office visit and one separate Urine Drug Screen with a refill
- **Are there exceptions to the policy?**
 - If the responsible provider feels an exception to the policy should be made the provider must review the patient with the Director of Addiction Services and/or the Clinical Lead and Bridge Clinic Coordinator. The responsible provider will need to provide a rationale as to why they feel an exception is appropriate