

## **FAQs for Substance Abuse: General Information**

### **Q. What types of programs need certification?**

**A.** All alcohol and drug treatment programs and prevention programs require certification by the State. However there are some organizations and programs that are exempt from certification due to having solely a meeting and support design rather than approved treatment or therapeutic composites (i.e. Narcotics Anonymous, Alcohol Anonymous, Transitional Housing and Employee assistance Programs). Also, there are some treatment programs and prevention programs located in hospitals that can apply for exemption from certification by written request because they are accredited according to the Behavioral Health Standards by the Joint Commission.

### **Q. I'm interested in helping people in recovery by providing housing options but I'm not an Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Can I still provide housing assistance to others and not pursue a substance abuse program certification?**

**A.**The Administration does not certify transitional housing programs or other similar organizations that hold meetings or provide support service to help individuals who show the effects of alcohol and drug abuse. There are specific zoning requirements in each State locality. Contact your local Zoning office for the zoning requirements in your community.

### **Q.. I'm interested in becoming an Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Where do I find more information?**

**A.**Although the Office and Health Care Quality will review the credentials and appropriate privileges of staff at substance abuse programs, it does not evaluate issue or verify Alcohol and Drug Counselor approvals. Please contact the State Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists for further information. Explore their website at [www.dhmh.state.md.us/bopc](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bopc) for more information.

### **Q. How do I know if a program that is advertising alcohol and drug treatment is approved by the Administration?**

**A.**When certified, the substance abuse program receives a Certificate of Approval from the Administration. The program is required to post the State Certificate at a conspicuous location within the program for public awareness and information. Request to see the program certificate.

Explore the **Resource Directory** located on the Administrations website.

[www.maryland-adaa.org](http://www.maryland-adaa.org) The directory is user friendly and search capable. Various information is provided about the Administration's approved substance abuse certified programs.

You may call ADAA or OHCQ should you need further assistance.

**Q. How do I file a complaint?**

A.To make a complaint about a health care facility or community-based treatment program contact OHCQ Substance Abuse Unit at 877-402-8218 or log on to the OHCQ website at [http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/ohcq/regulated\\_programs/substance\\_abuse.htm](http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/ohcq/regulated_programs/substance_abuse.htm) to complete a complaint form.

If your complaint pertains to services provided through OMT – Opioid Maintenance Therapy or OMT.D – Opioid Maintenance Therapy Detoxification (OTP) you may also contact the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA), State Opioid Treatment Authority (S.O.T.A.), Susan Swanton at 410-402-8600.

**Q.. How can I obtain technical assistance?**

A.The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) provides technical assistance to programs that receive any type of public funding through regional technical assistance teams. Contact information for these teams can be found at [http://www.marylandadaa.org/content\\_documents/MgmtServs/Regionalteams.pdf](http://www.marylandadaa.org/content_documents/MgmtServs/Regionalteams.pdf)

**Q.. How do I obtain information about certification and licensing for substance abuse professionals?**

A.Certification and licensing is done by the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists. The Board's Web site is located at: <http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/bopc/>  
Contact information for the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists is:  
4201 Patterson Ave.  
Baltimore, MD. 21215  
(410) 764-4732  
(410) 358-1610 Fax

**Q.. I am in need of alcohol and/or drug abuse treatment services for myself or my family. How do I find a program?**

A. The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration maintains a resource directory with the name, address, phone number and services offered for all DHMH certified programs operating in Maryland. These programs are listed by county on this website ([Resource Directory](#)) or for more specific information you can call the Community Services Division at 410-402-8600.

**Q.. Is treatment available for pregnant women and women with children?**

A.Since 1990, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration has required publicly funded programs to give pregnant women priority for admission to treatment. For treatment options for women see ADAA's [Resource Directory](#) listing and search under "populations" for services for women and/or services for women and children. If you have a specific need for this population that is not addressed in the Resource Directory contact ADAA at 410-402-8600 and request assistance from your regional Technical Services Manager.

**Q.. Where can I get information about specialized addiction training and/or seminars and courses for on going CEU's?**

A. ADAA's Office of Education and Training for Addiction Services (OETAS) offers both. [Click here](#) to learn about upcoming trainings and other OETAS events, or contact OETAS at 410-402-8585 to discuss how to meet your specialized training needs.

**Q.. I am looking for information about alcohol and drug abuse for a paper I am writing for school. Can you tell me where I can find the most recent resources, pamphlets or brochures on the topic?**

A. [Treatment and Prevention Coordinators](#) in your local jurisdiction maintain addiction, prevention and treatment literature resources. The ADAA Web site has a [publications page](#) that has a variety of agency reports, research, newsletters, and other relevant information. You might also try:

[Office of National Drug Control Policy \(ONDCP\)](#) ONDCP provides information, resources, and links to many public policy and academic research centers concerned with alcohol and drug abuse.

[National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information \(NCADI\)](#) NCADI provides publications, resources, referrals, research and statistics, searchable databases, serves as a gateway to the Centers for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and Prevention (CSAP), and many other governmental agencies concerned with substance abuse. Publications may be ordered directly from NCADI through their online catalog.

**Q.. I want to be prescribed Suboxone to detox off of heroin.... (or oxycontin, or other opiates). How do I find a doctor who can prescribe Suboxone (which contains the medication called buprenorphine)? What if I don't have any insurance?**

- You can find a doctor at the Buprenorphine Physician Locator on the ADAA website at <http://www.maryland-adaa.org/drsearch/>.
- If you do not have insurance, contact the [Addiction Coordinator](#) for your county between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM to learn about treatment options available to you. Please note that Baltimore City has a separate program called BSAS ([Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, Inc.](#)), the telephone number is (410) 637-1917. If you have a medical emergency related to substance detox or withdrawal, contact your nearest hospital emergency room for assistance.

**Q.. What should I do with my unused prescriptions in the medicine cabinet, especially ones that can be addictive?**

A. The ADAA, the DEA and your local drug and alcohol agencies are very concerned about the diversion of pain medications and other potentially addictive medications that may be in your medicine cabinet. At this time there are no state laws or regulations about how a citizen should get rid of unwanted medications. Some suggestions are:

- Ask your local pharmacy if they will take it off your hands. If the pharmacy cannot dispose it for you, here are the recommendations from the Office of National Drug Control Policy on "The Proper Disposal of Prescription Drugs." We have also provided the document for your downloading.

- Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers and throw them in the trash.
- Mixing prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and putting them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags; will further ensure the drugs are not diverted.
- Flush prescription drugs down the toilet **only** if the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs doing so. The FDA advises that the following drugs be flushed down the toilet instead of thrown in the trash:
  - Actiq (fentanyl citrate)
  - Daytrana Transdermal Patch (methylphenidate)
  - Duragesic Transdermal System (fentanyl)
  - OxyContin Tablets (oxycodone)
  - Avinza Capsules (morphine sulfate)
  - Baraclude Tablets (entecavir)
  - Reyataz Capsules (atazanavir sulfate)
  - Tequin Tablets (gatifloxacin)
  - Zerit for Oral Solution (stavudine)
  - Meperidine HCl Tablets
  - Percocet (Oxycodone and Acetaminophen)
  - Xyrem (Sodium Oxybate)
  - Fentora (fentanyl buccal tablet)