



Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Provider Bulletin

Number PR0076

Subject: Clarification of Requirements for Opioid Treatment Services Providers

Issue Date: June 19, 2018

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

Scope

All DMH Certified Providers of Opioid Treatment Services

Purpose

Clarify the Operational Standards requirements for all DMH Certified Providers of Opioid Treatment Services.

Background

The *2016 Operational Standards for Mental Health, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Disorders Community Service Providers* addresses the requirements for providers of Opioid Treatment Services in Chapter 54. The following clarifications are provided to assist providers in meeting the intent of the requirements.

Subject

Rule 54.4.A.2 requires that Medical Services be provided by the designated Medical Director that must “Be ASAM certified or hold a comparable accreditation approved by DMH”. This requirement has been revised to reflect the following changes.

The Medical Director must be:

1. ASAM or ABAM certified or
2. Hold a comparable accreditation approved by DMH or
3. Hold a DEA license for prescribing opioid treatment medications and have completed a staff training plan to include appropriate components as determined by DMH.

Rule 54.4.A.6 ensures that a Pharmacist licensed by the State of MS is present and overseeing the dispensing of medication at each program location. Based on the Board of Pharmacy rules and regulations, DMH defines “dispensing” as the interpretation of a valid prescription or order of a practitioner by a pharmacist and the subsequent preparation of the drug or device for administering to or use by a patient or other individual entitled to receive the drug. The Pharmacist is not required to be onsite at all times that medications are distributed in single doses (by a nurse at the dosing counter) but is required to be present during the creation of take home doses and at the time that individuals pick up their take home doses. It should be outlined in the provider’s policies and procedures the required duties of the Pharmacist (such as verifying dosing parameters or completing necessary paperwork, etc.) and allow for sufficient time in the program to complete these task.

Rule 54.4.B.1 outlines Medical Services that are provided under the direction of the Medical Director including but not limited to an initial history and physical. The admission activities outlined in this requirement can be conducted by a Licensed Nurse Practitioner under the supervision of a Licensed Physician but cannot be conducted by a Physician's Assistant.

If further information or clarification is needed, please contact the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Services.

End of Provider Bulletin