

	<b>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN</b> <b>COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE</b>		
	<b>NUMBER:</b> 28-02-02	<b>ISSUE DATE:</b> October 16, 2002	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> March 1, 1998
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Clinics with Provisional Licenses		<b>BY:</b>   <b>Peg J. Dierkers, Ph.D.</b> <b>Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs</b>	

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform outpatient drug and alcohol clinic providers that the Department of Public Welfare (Department) has amended the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment policy for outpatient drug and alcohol clinics to maintain consistency with Department of Health (DOH), Drug and Alcohol Program Licensing, by allowing drug and alcohol clinics with a provisional license to bill for covered MA services rendered to eligible MA recipients. This regulation also deletes references to obsolete Bureaus and Offices.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to outpatient drug and alcohol clinics enrolled in the MA Program under the Fee-For-Service delivery system and managed care organizations under contract with the Department.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Previously, MA regulations at 55 Pa. Code § 1223.41 did not allow for reimbursement to drug and alcohol clinics with provisional licenses. Under DOH regulations at 28 Pa. Code § 709, a drug and alcohol clinic with a provisional license may treat patients.

New drug and alcohol clinics are issued provisional licenses for a six-month period following the site inspection by DOH. Within the six-month period, a clinic must demonstrate that it can provide the services in conformity with the regulations. If a clinic does not meet the licensing regulations within the six-month period, the clinic may receive any number of provisional licenses as determined by DOH.

In addition, a fully licensed drug and alcohol clinic may receive a provisional license after its yearly inspection. If the clinic receives a provisional license, the clinic has six months to meet licensing regulations. If the clinic still does not meet licensing regulations, the clinic may receive any number of provisional licenses as determined by DOH.

By the Department allowing drug and alcohol clinics with provisional licenses to bill for covered services to eligible MA recipients, recipients will be able to continue with the same provider and maintain continuity of care. Further, since new drug and alcohol clinics cannot receive a full license for at least six months, permitting new clinics with a provisional license to participate in the MA Program will increase access by MA recipients to covered services in new drug and alcohol clinics.

On October 18, 2001, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved the amended regulations to the MA enrollment policy for outpatient drug and alcohol clinics and to references of obsolete Bureaus and Offices. The regulations were effective upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and apply retroactively to March 1, 1998.

**NEXT STEPS:**

Please replace all pages of Chapter 1223 in the policy section of your Medical Assistance Handbook with pages III-51 through III-61 attached to this bulletin.

**ATTACHMENT**

Chapter 1223 Handbook Pages

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap).