

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROVIDERS

OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR OPIOID TREATMENT PROVIDERS (OTP)

On March 16, 2020, SAMHSA issued guidance to Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) in recognition of the evolving issues surrounding COVID-19 and emerging needs facing OTPs.

The increased flexibility allowed for DDAP to request blanket exceptions to SAMHSA regarding OTP prescribing practices for take-home medications within the commonwealth. The following blanket exceptions are approved by SAMHSA:

1. For patients who are stable, OTPs may prescribe take-home doses of up to 28 days.
2. For patients who are less than stable but the physician believes can safely handle take-home medication, OTPS may prescribe take-home doses up to 14 days.

Providers implementing these waivers must notify DDAP and provide policies that have been updated to reflect these changes.

Contact the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensing at (717) 783-8675 or RA-licensedivision@pa.gov.

View [Licensing Alert 01-20](#) for more information on this new guidance.

COVID-19 RESOURCES



DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROVIDERS

SAMHSA GUIDANCE FOR OTP CERTIFICATION EXTENSION DURING COVID-19

Prior to the certification expiration date, please send an email to the assigned Compliance Officer indicating the reason for the extension request.

- If the extension request is due to an upcoming accreditation survey timeframe, please provide documentation from the accreditation body.
- Please also submit a SMA-162 form via the [OTP Extranet](#) for certification renewal as this will be necessary to complete processing the renewal request.

Compliance Officers

- Stacey Owens - Stacey.Owens@samhsa.hhs.gov
- Barbara Howes - Barbara.Howes@samhsa.hhs.gov
- Latorie Jones (currently deployed) - Latorie.Jones@samhsa.hhs.gov

If you need assistance identifying your assigned Compliance Officer email - DPT@samhsa.hhs.gov