

Medical Review Officer (MRO) Certifying Entities: Overview and Update

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Overview

- Medical Review Officer (MRO)
 - Licensed physician who has either a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) or Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.) degree
 - Has knowledge regarding the pharmacology and toxicology of illicit drugs,
 - Has completed the training necessary to serve as an MRO, and
 - Has satisfactorily passed an examination administered by a nationally recognized entity that certifies MROs or subspecialty board for physicians performing a review of Federal employee drug tests results, which has been approved by the Secretary.
- Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs
- Subpart M – Medical Review Officer (MRO), Section 13.1

Overview

- MRO Certifying Entities and Subspecialty Boards
 - Nationally recognized
 - Must submit their qualifications and a sample MRO Examination
 - Annually reviewed objectively and approved by the HHS Secretary.

HHS-Approved MRO Entities

- MRO certifying organizations that offer both MRO training and certification through examination:
 - American Association of Medical Review Officers (AAMRO)
 - Medical Review Officer Certification Council (MROCC)

HHS-Approved MRO Entities

- Organizations that offer MRO training as a prerequisite for MRO certification:
 - American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)
 - American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

MRO Entity Approval Timeline: 2011

- Based on 2010 timeline.
- Interested MRO entities seeking approval from the HHS Secretary should submit their information to SAMHSA by August 2011.
- Once the HHS Secretary approves the MRO entities, the list will be published in the **Federal Register**: December 2011.

NLCP Notifications to MRO Entities

- National Laboratory Certification Program (NLCP) e-mails and notifications that impact MROs.
- Contacted MROCC, AAMRO, ASAM, and ACOEM to request a designated contacted person who can receive these notifications and disseminate them to MROs if deemed appropriate.
- Currently, MROCC, AAMRO, and ASAM are receiving notifications.

MRO Entity Guidance

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) format
- Status: Draft completed and incorporating comments.
- Finalized version will be published on the SAMHSA DWP Website.

Key References

- October 1, 2010

Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs, Subpart M Medical Review Officer (MRO), Section 13.1

- <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-10118.pdf>

- HHS MRO Manual

- http://workplace.samhsa.gov/DrugTesting/pdf/MRO_Manual_2010_100908.pdf

- December 8, 2010

HHS Approval of Entities That Certify Medical Review Officers (MROs)

- Federal Register / Vol. 75, No. 235 / Wednesday, December 8, 2010 / Notices
- <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-30700.pdf>

- List of Approved HHS MRO Training and Certification Entities

- http://workplace.samhsa.gov/DrugTesting/pdf/apprvd_mro_training_cert_entities.pdf