



LICENSING ALERT

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Acting Deputy Secretary for Quality Assurance

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Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure
Licensing Alert 01-08

NONRESIDENTIAL FACILITY USE OF BUPRENORPHINE

Requests for Exceptions to Regulations
28 Pa. Code Part V
Chapter 715

Drug and alcohol treatment facilities licensed pursuant to 28 Pa. Code Part V, as NON-RESIDENTIAL facilities, that desire to commence using buprenorphine, may request an exception to the regulations at 28 Pa. Code Chapter 715 that require an entity within the Commonwealth which uses agents for maintenance or detoxification of persons to comply with Chapter 715 and to obtain the approval of the Department to operate as a Narcotic Treatment Program.

The Secretary has determined, pursuant to 28 Pa. Code § 701.11, that granting an exception to the requirements of 28 Pa. Code Chapter 715 to those non-residential facilities that desire to use buprenorphine will be in furtherance of sound program implementation and is consistent with the policy objectives of this part. (28 Pa. Code § 701.11(b)).

A facility that desires to commence using buprenorphine may submit a request, approved by the governing body of the facility, for an exception from the requirements of Chapter 715. Acceptable documentation includes approved minutes of a Board of Directors meeting, a corporate resolution, a letter from the Board President or some other official document identifying approval by the governing body. Upon submission of the following information, and receiving approval from the Department, a non-residential facility that wishes to use buprenorphine may commence with the use of buprenorphine. The Division will issue an approval letter.

The following information must be submitted, including the attached exception request form:

- a. The name of the physician or physicians.
- b. A copy of each physician's DEA card or letter from CSAT indicating authorization to prescribe buprenorphine.

- c. Provision of maintenance and/or detoxification and the maximum number of persons to be treated at any given time.
- d. Recommended length of stay for detoxification treatment.

In addition, a facility that is using buprenorphine, to the extent necessary and applicable, must modify its policies and procedures regarding medication control. (See 28 Pa. Code §§ 709.32, 711.87 and 711.97) These revised policies and procedures do not need to be submitted to the Department at the time the request for the exception is submitted. These policies and procedures will be reviewed by the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure at the facility's next scheduled annual licensure renewal inspection.

A form request for exception to 28 Pa. Code Chapter 715 is attached to this Licensing Alert and is available from the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure. Requests for the exception to 28 Pa. Code Chapter 715 referred to herein, along with the required documentation must be forwarded to the following address:

Pennsylvania Department of Health
Bureau of Community Program Licensure and Certification
Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure
132 Kline Plaza, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Requests may also be submitted by fax to the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure at (717) 787 - 3188.

Requests may also be submitted electronically to the Division at the following e-mail address:

dapl@state.pa.us

Questions regarding this Licensing Alert may be directed to the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure at the above address or at (717) 783-8675.

******Please visit the Department's web site to access this Licensing Alert and other Division publications (www.health.state.pa.us and enter DAPL in the search box)******