

## POLICY BULLETIN

### No. 18-01

**Issued Date:** January 31, 2018

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Subject:** Governor Tom Wolf's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency

On January 10, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency related to the opioid epidemic that directly impacts treatment in Pennsylvania. Pursuant to the proclamation, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) regulation at 28 Pa. Code §715.9(a)(4) is being waived for the duration of the disaster emergency declaration, which is 90 days. However, a permanent waiver can be requested.

#### **28 Pa. Code §715.9(a)(4)**

This regulation requires that a physician make a face-to-face determination that the client has been dependent upon a narcotic drug for at least one year before admission and treatment with the administration of an agent by a narcotic treatment program (NTPs).

During the emergency declaration, Physician Assistants (PAs) and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) delegated by the NTP's medical director may perform the face-to-face determination. All other regulations, unless also specifically waived by the emergency declaration, remain in effect.

NTPs that plan to utilize this waiver must still seek a federal exemption by submitting the federally required Opioid Treatment Program Exemption Form to DDAP, who will forward to SAMHSA for approval. NTPs can obtain this form from DDAP by sending a request to [RA-DADISASTERPROCLAM@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DADISASTERPROCLAM@pa.gov). In addition, NTPs are to report the number of intakes performed by PAs and CRNPs pursuant to the disaster emergency declaration to [RA-DADISASTERPROCLAM@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DADISASTERPROCLAM@pa.gov) on February 9<sup>th</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup>, and April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The submission of the federally required form to DDAP will also serve as an exception request compliant with 28 Pa. Code §711.4. When NTPs seek renewal of this exemption from DDAP, be advised that DDAP will consider how useful this waiver has been to the NTPs and will request that the NTP provide the total number of intakes performed by PAs and CRNPs when reviewing exception requests.

Questions regarding this Policy Bulletin and exception requests shall be directed to Wenona Wake, Bureau Director for Quality Assurance for Prevention and Treatment, Division of D&A Program Licensing at (717)783-8675 or [wwake@pa.gov](mailto:wwake@pa.gov).