



# Medical Review Officer (MRO) Certifying Entities & MRO Manual Revisions & Work Group Update

**CDR Jennifer Fan, Pharm.D., J.D.**



DTAB  
June 10, 2014



# MRO 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

# MRO 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

# MRO Entity Approval Update

- Approved MRO entities was published in the **Federal Register** on March 11, 2014.
  - Approved for training and certification through examination: AAMRO and MROCC
  - Listed entities that offer training as a prerequisite for certification: ASAM and ACOEM

# MRO Entity Approval Update (Cont'd)

- Interested MRO entities seeking approval from the HHS Secretary in 2014 must have their information submitted to SAMHSA by July 21, 2014
- Once SAMHSA has reviewed the requests, SAMHSA will forward its recommendation to the HHS Secretary
- The recommendations will be published in the **Federal Register** after HHS Secretary approval

# MRO Workgroup

## ■ Mission

- To aid SAMHSA in determining the steps in the MRO verification process in regard to program objectives, developing specific workplace definitions, and reviewing the standards and practices
- To advise SAMHSA in drafting guidance for the consistent interpretation of donor drug test results. The objective will be to make a more comprehensive MRO manual that will deal with all illicit drug use, newly added synthetic opiates, and oral fluid drug test results

# MRO Workgroup (cont'd)

## ■ Status

- MRO Manual Reorganization and Revision
- MRO Work Group Teleconference Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 3pm
  - Getting everyone on the MRO Work Group back together.
  - Provide a general update; direction we are moving.
  - Time frame for MRO Manual completion.
  - Regularly scheduled teleconferences to go over MRO Manual review issues and individual assignments.
  - Address any WG questions.

# 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](http://workplace.samhsa.gov/DrugTesting/pdf/MRO_Manual_2010_100908.pdf)
- March 11, 2014
  - HHS Approval of Entities That Certify Medical Review Officers (MROs)
  - Federal Register / Vol. 79, No. 47 / Tuesday, March 11, 2014 / Notices
  - List of Approved HHS MRO Training and Certification Entities
  - <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-03-11/pdf/2014-05283.pdf>