



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

Jennifer Fan, Pharm.D., J.D.

Pharmacist, Drug Testing



Drug Testing Advisory Board Meeting
February 11, 2013



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.

MRO Entity Approval Timeline: 2012

- ➔ Interested MRO entities seeking approval from the HHS Secretary submitted their information to SAMHSA by July 16, 2012.
- ➔ SAMHSA reviewed the requests and forwarded its recommendation to the HHS Secretary
- ➔ The HHS Secretary approved the MRO entities and the list was published in the **Federal Register**: January 14, 2013:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/pdf/2013-00476.pdf>

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 by the approved entities:
- American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)
 - American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

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.

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://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/pdf/2013-00476.pdf>