

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.

# 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](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>