

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Requirements for Approval of Medical Review Officer (MRO) Certification: 2011

HHS publishes the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs (Mandatory Guidelines) establishing standards for Federal workplace drug testing programs. The most recent revisions to the Mandatory Guidelines were published on November 25, 2008 (73 FR 71858), which took effect on October 1, 2010.

The Mandatory Guidelines address the role and qualifications of Medical Review Officers (MRO) and HHS approval of entities that certify MROs. Subpart M-Medical Review Officer (MRO), Section 13.1(b), "Who may serve as an MRO?" states as follows:

"Nationally recognized entities that certify MROs or subspecialty boards for physicians performing a review of Federal employee drug testing results that seek approval by the Secretary must submit their qualifications and a sample examination. Based on an annual objective review of the qualifications and content of the examination, the Secretary shall publish a list in the Federal Register of those entities and boards that have been approved."

If your MRO-certifying entity or board is seeking HHS approval to certify MROs performing reviews of Federal employee drug test results, please submit a written request including the qualifications of your organization, a sample examination, and sample MRO application to:

Jennifer Fan, Pharm.D., J.D.
Division of Workplace Programs, CSAP/SAMHSA
One Choke Cherry Road, Room 2-1031
Rockville, MD 20857
Telephone: (240) 276-1759

Requests must be received by August 19, 2011.