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Pharmacy Substance Use Disorder Program (PSUD)
Fact Sheet

As established by M.G.L. c. 112, § 24H, the Pharmacy Substance Use Disorder program ("PSUD") can assist Board of Registration in Pharmacy ("Board") licensees with rehabilitation. Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians who have a substance use disorder ("SUD") involving alcohol or drugs may participate.

Participation

1. Entry into the program is voluntary, but the participant must agree to cooperate with their individualized rehabilitation plan as recommended by the rehabilitation evaluation committee and approved by the Board.
2. Provides a non-disciplinary alternative to traditional discipline against the participant's pharmacy license, provided the participant is fully compliant with the rehabilitation plan.
3. Participation in PSUD does not appear as discipline on the participant's pharmacy license during participation or after successful completion.

Confidentiality

1. Information obtained by the PSUD supervisor is confidential and exempt from disclosure.
2. Upon successful completion of the program (typically 5 years), all records will be sealed, all Board and Committee records of a participant's involvement in the program will be kept confidential and will not be subject to discovery or subpoena in any civil, criminal, legislative or administrative proceeding without prior written consent of the participant.
3. The Board may take disciplinary action against the pharmacy license of a participant who withdraws from the program prior to successful completion, or whose participation is terminated as a result on non-compliance.

Typical PSUD Rehabilitation Program

1. 5-year program.
2. Full restriction on practice (no pharmacy practice permitted) for the first year.

3. Gradual return to work and pharmacy duties in years two through five.
4. Monitored practice with restrictions that decrease over time during years two through five.
5. Meet with PSUD committee and supervisor regularly.
6. Individualized Rehabilitation Program is approved by the PSUD Committee.
7. Work setting is required to report on a regular basis to the PSUD Committee.

Will disciplinary action viewable to the public?

1. During any period in which there is a full practice restriction, the publicly viewable license status will be “non-disciplinary restrictions.” During all other periods of participation, the license status will be “non-disciplinary conditions.”
2. Once the rehabilitation program has been successfully completed, typically after year five, the license will not reflect any discipline relating to participation or related to the event that precipitated entry into the program.
3. Any pre-existing discipline, or discipline based on non-compliance with the rehabilitation program will appear on the publicly viewable license.

How is the rehabilitation program paid for?

1. The rehabilitation program must be funded either through the participant’s own health insurance or personal funds.
2. There is no cost for the Board’s coordination of the program.
NOTE: Typically, participants are not able to work as a licensed pharmacy professional for the first year of the program.

For more information please contact:

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