

Frequently Asked Questions  
Certificate of Waiver-Medical Director Qualifications for Substance Use Disorder Facilities  
Licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:161B

**What does the Certificate of Waiver-Medical Director mean for substance use disorder facilities?**

Prior to the waiver, facilities providing Opioid Treatment Program and/or detoxification (ambulatory withdrawal management) services were required to have a medical director and medical director designee that met the following requirements:

1. A physician who is currently licensed in accordance with the laws of New Jersey who:
  - a. Is certified by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), or its successor certification board, by June 1, 2012; or
  - b. Worked in a substance use disorder treatment facility a minimum of five years for at least 20 hours per week and have completed the ASAM/American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD) clinicians training course, <http://www.aatod.org/resources/additional-education-on-opioid-dependence/providersclinical-support-system-for-medication-assisted-treatment/>.

DOH is waiving regulatory requirements for facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:161B to have a medical director and medical director designee to have specialized certification. Facilities may now have a medical director who has specialized certification or has one year of experience in addiction treatment.

The medical director for facilities providing ambulatory withdrawal management services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:161B-12 must continue to have two years of direct experience in the provision of detoxification services.

**Does the medical director designee for my facility need specialized certification?**

No. The medical director designee must be a physician who is currently licensed to practice in the State of New Jersey with one year of experience in addiction treatment.

**Do medical directors for detoxification services still need to have two years of direct experience in detoxification?**

Yes. Facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:161B-12 to provide ambulatory withdrawal management services must still comply with N.J.A.C. 10:161B-12.2(a)1 which requires that the medical director have two years of direct experience in the provision of detoxification services.

**Do facilities providing other types of substance use disorder services need a medical director?**

Facilities are required to have a medical director in the following circumstances:

- The facility is licensed as an Opioid Treatment Program under N.J.A.C. 10:161B-11; and/or

- The facility is licensed to provide ambulatory withdrawal management services under N.J.A.C. 10:161B-12.

Facilities prescribing and/or administering medication, other than Methadone, for the treatment of substance use disorder that are not providing ambulatory withdrawal management services do not need a medical director. However, the prescribers for these facilities must be licensed in the State of New Jersey and adhere to all DEA and CDC requirements for the provision of particular medications.

### **What steps do I need to take to provide services pursuant to the waiver?**

Facilities must report the resignation or termination of the medical director along with the name and qualifications of the replacement.

### **When does the waiver take effect?**

The waiver is effective immediately.

### **Does the waiver expire?**

The waiver remains valid until new or revised regulations are adopted or they are suspended or revoked by DOH.