

August 4, 2010

Dear Colleague,

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) is pleased to announce a new DWI initiative that is expected to significantly improve and standardize the quality and efficiency of clinical services provided to impaired driving offenders across New York State. Within this DWI initiative are the following three (3) new requirements:

- Compliance with OASAS' clinical standards, effective October 1, 2010;
- Attendance at a required training program by September 30, 2011; and
- Report online to OASAS' Impaired Driver System (IDS) by March 30, 2011

Each of these requirements is explained in detail below. ***As an OASAS approved provider of clinical screening and assessment services for impaired driving offenders (Provider), it is strongly recommended that you carefully review and consider the contents of this correspondence as your continued approval is contingent upon compliance with these new requirements.***

Standards for Clinical Services Provided to Individuals Arrested for an Impaired Driving Offense

In accordance with Section 1198-a of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) and in conjunction with Section 19.07(g) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law, OASAS has developed "Standards for Clinical Services Provided to Individuals Arrested for an Impaired Driving Offense." These Standards are established to ensure consistency and competency in clinical screening, assessment and treatment services of the impaired driving client. ***The Standards are effective October 1, 2010, and it is essential that you review, understand and demonstrate compliance by that date.*** The Standards are available for download at www.oasas.state.ny.us/dwi.

OASAS offers technical assistance via email at DWI@oasas.state.ny.us, or telephone at 1-800-482-9564, Option 4. A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is available online: www.oasas.state.ny.us/dwi.

Required Training: "Clinical Screening and Assessment of the Impaired Driver"

Attendance at a full-day, classroom-based training, "Clinical Screening and Assessment of the Impaired Driver," is also required for continued approval and inclusion on the Provider list. Classroom-based training will commence in Fall 2010 and will be offered in all regions of NYS through September 30, 2011, allowing one year for your attendance and completion. A preliminary training schedule will be posted on OASAS' Impaired Driver Services webpage: www.oasas.state.ny.us/dwi in September 2010.

Impaired Driver System

In collaboration with the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), OASAS is in the final stages of developing the Impaired Driver System (IDS), a web-based data collection, tracking and reporting application. IDS will facilitate information sharing and automate processes that are currently handled manually via DMV's DS-449 paper form.

IDS will allow Providers to:

- Submit clinical determinations to DMV electronically rather than via U.S. mail;
- View an impaired driving client's prior arrests or convictions and associated screening, assessment and treatment history once consent forms are executed and on file;

- View an impaired driving client's prior history of participation in the Drinking Driver Program (DDP) and associated referrals to assessment;
- Access an impaired driving client's most current Abstract of Driving Record;
- Generate reports to assist with client records management and other information sharing needs.

IDS implementation will begin November 2010. Once all phases of implementation are complete, Providers will be required to document in IDS the services they provide to impaired driving clients. IDS use will require a computer with internet access and a valid email address. Providers will be required to complete and submit an IDS Access Request Form as part of the registration process. Additional details regarding IDS, including a tutorial and user manual, will be posted to OASAS' Impaired Driver Services webpage: www.oasas.state.ny.us/dwi when they become available.

Email and Web-Based Communication

Due to financial constraints that are currently in effect in New York State, OASAS is transitioning most communications to an electronic format. Providers should anticipate that all future correspondence from OASAS will be sent to the email address you supply in your response on the enclosed form.

In addition to email correspondence, OASAS also encourages regular visits to our Impaired Driver Services webpage: www.oasas.state.ny.us/dwi for important information including updates regarding the statewide schedule of the required training, "*Clinical Screening and Assessment of the Impaired Driver.*"

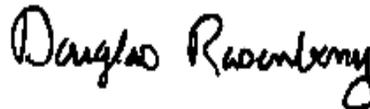
To ensure your understanding and acknowledgement of these important policy changes, as well as your approval status as a provider of clinical screening and assessment services for impaired driving offenders, please complete and sign the enclosed form and return it to the address indicated below by September 1, 2010.

**NYS OASAS
Attn: Linda Edmundson
1450 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203**

Provider resources, including a list of FAQs concerning this important initiative, are available online: www.oasas.state.ny.us/dwi. Should you require further assistance, please contact OASAS staff at 1-800-482-9564, Option 4.

We appreciate your attention to this notice and look forward to working with you as we standardize our protocols and ensure the quality of services provided to impaired driving offenders in New York State.

Sincerely,



Douglas Rosenberry

Enclosure