

RFP QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT

The U.S. Probation Office (USPO) for the Western District of Virginia received the following questions from treatment providers regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) contracts in Virginia.

Question #1:

The RFP states a vendor must appear to testify at legal proceedings convened by the probation officer. How often would that actually occur?

Response:

The vendor's staff members would very rarely be required to attend court hearings and testify.

Question #2:

The RFP states medication is prescribed by physicians who have specialized training in addiction medicine. Does that mean Nurse Practitioners cannot prescribe medications? In addition, can physicians that have completed a psychiatry residency and waiver training prescribe medication or is the physician required to have completed an addiction fellowship?

Response:

A) The contract requires that a physician prescribe medication to defendants/offenders, so a nurse practitioner cannot prescribe medication.

B) The contract does not require that medication be prescribed by a physician that has completed an addiction fellowship. The USPO believes that completion of a psychiatry residency, and an approved buprenorphine waiver training course, would satisfy the specialized training requirement.

Question #3:

The RFP states the patient must have physical examinations, as deemed medically necessary. Would it be acceptable to send the patient to their primary care physician for the physical exam, or does that need to be completed by our agency?

Response:

If a physical exam is requested by the USPO, or otherwise deemed necessary, the vendor must be able to complete the exam.

Question #4:

The RFP requires that a typed report be submitted to the USPO after completion of a physical examination (Project Code 4010) and laboratory studies (Project Code 4020). Could a substance abuse case manager complete this requirement?

Response:

A case manager may be able to type the physical exam report after obtaining the necessary information from the qualified practitioner that conducted the exam. The vendor will not be required to prepare a report for a laboratory study. The vendor will only be required to submit a copy of the laboratory study results to the USPO.

Question #5:

The RFP states a patient must have written medical clearance stating there is minimal danger of side effects and the patient is fully aware of the side effects. Is this referring to written informed consent which the treatment provider obtains from a client?

Response:

The vendor may only prescribe medication to a defendant/offender if they believe there is minimal danger of side effects from the medication. If the vendor believes a client is only subject to minimal danger, they must note that information in the client's chart, and ensure the client is fully aware of the medication's side effects.

Question #6:

The RFP states all supervision notes must be shared with the USPO. What are supervision notes?

Response:

"Supervision notes" are the vendor's progress notes.

Question #7:

Would defendants/offenders visit my office to receive treatment or are you looking for MAT providers within the jail?

Response:

Defendants/offenders would only receive MAT services at the vendor's office.

Question #8:

Would defendants/offenders be seen in my office?

Response:

Yes.

Question #9:

How many defendants/offenders would be referred to my office in Blacksburg, Virginia, each month?

Response:

The USPO has never awarded a contract for MAT services to a vendor in the Blacksburg area, so it is very difficult to estimate the number of defendants/offenders that might be referred to a vendor each month. The USPO estimates that approximately four or five defendants/offenders would be referred to a vendor in the Blacksburg area each year.

Question #10:

If the USPO awards an MAT contract to my practice, can you explain the process for providing services to defendants/offenders?

Response:

After awarding a contract for MAT services to a vendor, the USPO will refer defendants/offenders to the vendor that meet the following criteria: 1) the client appears to be a good candidate for services, 2) the client does not have insurance that will cover the services, and 3) the client does not have the ability to pay for the services.

The USPO will refer defendants/offenders to the vendor by sending them a referral packet containing the client's name, address, and telephone number. The packet will also contain information about the client's history of substance abuse. The vendor will then contact the client and schedule an initial appointment.

During the initial appointment, the vendor will evaluate the defendant/offender for MAT services. The vendor will also notify the client's probation officer of their recommendation regarding services after the appointment. If services are recommended, the USPO will send a document to the vendor which authorizes them to supply the client with medication, conduct medication monitoring visits, and perform necessary blood and urine tests. The client will then report to the vendor's office as required.

The USPO contract does not require vendors to keep medications in stock, but it requires vendors to provide defendants/offenders with medication during or after office visits. If the vendor does not keep medications in stock, or have an on-site pharmacy, they will be required to obtain the client's medication from a local pharmacy.

The vendor will submit a Monthly Treatment Report form to the USPO every month for each defendant/offender. The vendor will also submit an invoice to the USPO every month which contains charges for physical exams and medication monitoring services they provided to clients. The invoice will also include charges for blood/urine tests that were conducted and medication that was provided. If the vendor obtains medication from a pharmacy for a client, the vendor may also include a charge on the invoice for obtaining the medication.