

2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ILLNESS (COVID-19) GUIDANCE

TITLE: Guidance for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)/Methadone Clinics Concerning 2019 Novel Coronavirus Illness

DATE: May 5, 2020

TIME: 4:00 PM

TO: All OTP Directors and staff, MCOs, KDHE, ASO

FROM: Commissioner Andrew Brown

SUMMARY: KDADS Guidance for Kansas OTPs/Stakeholders

GUIDANCE: Response to Questions from Kansas OTPs regarding Urinalysis Drug Testing, Annual Exams, Treatment Plan Signatures, and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Home Delivery during COVID 19 Emergency Declaration for the State of Kansas

- I. Effective immediately and until further guidance is issued, to help facilitate social distancing for OTP staff and persons served:
 - i. The need and frequency of Urinalysis Drug Tests (UA) should be clinically determined by the Medical Director of the OTP. At a minimum, a UA should be conducted every 28 days in accordance with the blanket exception for take-home doses guidance. For patients that are symptomatic and quarantined, the UA requirement is waived if it is documented in the patient's record. In accordance with SAMHSA's guidance, document that the patient is medically ordered to be under isolation or quarantine. When possible, confirm source of information - e.g., doctor's order, medical record and ensure the documentation is maintained in the patient's OTP record. The guidance with more information can be found on SAMHSA's website at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/otp-covid-implementation-guidance.pdf>.
 - ii. OTP's should follow SAMHSA's guidance for medical exams: <https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus>. In the absence of a Federal directive for annual exams, the need for an annual exam should be clinically determined by the Medical Director of the OTP. If the Medical Director of the OTP determines the annual exam should be delayed, the documentation in the patient's OTP record should reflect the determination, the justification for the delay, and a date for when the annual exam is expected to be completed.
 - iii. In the absence of a Federal directive for patient signatures on a treatment plan, the OTP should review the treatment plan with the patient and document the reason the patient is unavailable for a physical signature. Verbal consent obtained over the phone or the internet

will be acceptable in place of signed consent where normally required. If the client is able to provide an e-mail confirmation that they have reviewed the treatment plan, the confirmation should be placed in the client's record.

- iv. Regarding MAT delivery to patient's homes for those patients who don't have a trusted third party, please follow SAMHSA guidance for OTPs: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/otp-covid-implementation-guidance.pdf>.

II. ASO, MCOs and State Survey staff should hold harmless the OTP's during this time period.