



Alabama Board of Nursing Requirements for Recognition of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers

The Alabama Board of Nursing remains committed to ensuring that patient care is delivered by licensed staff who are healthy in both mind and body and competent to provide nursing services safely. Treatment providers are a vital part of that commitment, as our nation continues to battle substance use disorder nationwide. If you believe that your organization meets the following criteria, please contact Abby Migliore, Administrative Director for Discipline/Compliance Monitoring at Abby.Migliore@abn.alabama.gov.

Section 610-X-13-.04(2) of the ABN Administrative Code stipulates the following requirements for Board-recognized substance use disorder treatment providers:

(2) The Board-recognized substance use disorder treatment provider shall meet the following criteria:

(a) Conduct or provide for, by a qualified provider, assessment, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of substance abuse or dependence, utilizing DSM-IV-TR or DSM-V criteria by a qualified provider that includes mental disorder diagnoses; factors including psychosocial, contextual and environmental factors: level of functioning; and disability.

(b) Issue treatment recommendations based on ASAM Criteria.

(c) Conduct, during the initial phase of treatment, biological testing and screening for drugs, chemicals, and alcohol that are analyzed by qualified medical and laboratory personnel. A drug screen that is positive during treatment requires confirmation, at the applicant or licensed nurse's expense, from a laboratory approved by the Board. The treatment provider shall notify the Board's designee(s) of any drug screen deemed positive.

(d) Communicate, in a timely manner, with authorized Board designee(s), through electronic communications and written reports:

- 1. Compliance or noncompliance with treatment requirements.*
- 2. Data necessary to determine applicability of terms and conditions of and compliance with the VDAP Agreement, including, but not limited to, all information required in this section, as well as reports regarding attendance at treatment and aftercare/continuing care and results of any biological testing or screening for drugs, chemicals, and alcohol.*
- 3. Changes in treatment plan based on the progress of the licensed nurse or applicant.*

(e) Provide individualized written plan(s) of care including assessment and diagnosis, treatment goals, discharge criteria, guidelines for continuing recovery, and recommendations for return to nursing practice.



(f) Certification by the State Department of Mental Health or approved by a Board-recognized approving body.

(g) Conduct or provide for Continuing Care/Aftercare for a minimum one day per week for twelve months or longer if required by the treatment provider following completion of treatment.

(h) Incorporate an abstinence philosophy into treatment and require, at a minimum, the applicant or licensee's attendance at a minimum of three (3) abstinence-oriented support group meetings per week during treatment.

(i) For programs offering only intensive outpatient treatment, provide at a minimum 100 hours of treatment per episode, excluding continuing care, at least three (3) days per week in the initial phase of treatment.

(j) Provide all written records requested by the Board in a timely manner. Failure to respond to requests for written records may result in removal of the Board-recognized treatment provider from the list of Board's resources.