

# MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

## MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS HEALTH PROGRAM

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**Introduction:** The Medical Professionals Health Program (MPHP) is a case management program that seeks to assist and support medical professionals who may have, or do have, substance use and/or behavioral illnesses which may compromise their ability to lead healthy, productive lives and serve the public. The professionals we serve are Physicians, Nurses, Dental Professionals, Physician Assistants, Pharmacists and Veterinarians. We seek comprehensive evaluations from credentialed medical providers (PhD, PsyD, MD, DO, LCSW) who have expertise in chemical dependence, behavioral illness or neurocognitive testing, depending on the client's needs, to assist us in serving our clientele. We also seek consistency across evaluations. We do not make determinations about fitness to return to work. This is in the province of the evaluator and the treatment team. We do not make diagnoses. However we do determine if he/she meets criteria for participation in our program. We appreciate very much your help and professionalism. If you would like to learn more about how MPHP serves medical professionals we encourage you to visit our website at [www.mainemphp.com](http://www.mainemphp.com)

**Purpose of the Evaluation:** There are four primary purposes for obtaining this comprehensive evaluation. These are:

- To be certain that the professional gets excellent treatment that matches his/her needs.
- To determine if the professional meets criteria for being followed by MPHP.
- To build an excellent case management agreement if appropriate.
- To assure ourselves, and occasionally, Boards of Licensure, that a needed treatment plan can be developed that will result in a safe and healthy return to work.

**Required Elements of an MPHP Evaluation:**

- Identifying information
- Chief complaint
- History of the presenting issue
- Psychiatric/psychological history
- Substance use history
- Medical history, including current medications
- Developmental (family of origin), psychosocial and educational history
- Mental status examination (not necessitating formal testing, unless deemed appropriate)
- Corroborative information as available
- Diagnosis
- Treatment formulation and summary
- Ability to practice safely

**Confidentiality:** You should know that we ask the participant to sign a release with you to have you send us your completed evaluation, but we do not reissue this evaluation to anyone. It is kept strictly confidential among our staff. Some licensing boards, however, may ask the participant to produce the results of your evaluation to them. That is between you and the client.

**Payment:** We do not reimburse for these evaluations. The medical professional, or his/her insurance, must bear the cost of the evaluation. What you decide to charge is between you and the professional.

However, we urge you to remember that some of these colleagues may have little money and need your services a great deal.

### **Other Issues:**

- Any MPHP team member, a medical colleague, or Advisory Committee member can make a recommendation for an evaluator to be placed on the list for referrals as long as the evaluator meets the credentialing criteria set out on the first page.
- If the evaluator has not previously done evaluations for MPHP, and there is a potential referral, MPHP staff send this document out and get confirmation that the evaluator believes he or she can meet the requirements.
- The MPHP case manager for the specific professional will obtain permission from the professional and will call the evaluator prior to the evaluation appointment to provide information and direction about specific concerns and to answer any questions that the evaluator may have.
- It is very important that the professional not be a colleague or known to the evaluator in another context. These evaluations must be free of conflicts of interest.
- The completed evaluation is expected to be received by MPHP within two weeks of the evaluation. Under extenuating circumstances the evaluator may request a time extension.
- If the case manager has questions about the evaluation, the evaluator will arrange a time to speak with the MPHP case manager as soon as is convenient for both.
- If the evaluation does not contain the elements described in the attached document then the case manager may contact the evaluator and request the additional information which should be forwarded within a week.
- If the evaluator is unable to comply with these requirements the evaluator may be removed from the list without notification.
- If the evaluator has authority to access to the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) it is recommended that the evaluator access that as a part of his/her assessment.
- The evaluator is not expected to make recommendations about participation in the MPHP as part of the evaluation. Eligibility for monitoring in MPHP will be determined by the MPHP team based on the evaluation, the assessment by the case manager and other factors that may be related to Board concerns.