

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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Governor
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HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2019-17

TO: Chronic and Convalescent Nursing Home Administrators

FROM: Barbara Cass, R.N., Branch Chief *BSC*
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut, 06134

DATE: September 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Medication Assisted Treatment for Individuals Residing in a Nursing Home.

The Facility Licensing and Investigations Section has convened a workgroup to explore the availability of medication assisted treatment in nursing homes and identify challenges and/or gaps that may create disruptions to continuity of care for individuals who may be receiving medication assisted treatment for a substance use disorder.

The Code of Federal Regulations, §483.40 behavioral health services directs that “each resident must receive and the facility must provide the necessary behavioral health care and services to attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, in accordance with the comprehensive assessment and plan of care. Behavioral health encompasses a resident’s whole emotional and mental well-being, which includes, but is not limited to, the prevention and treatment of mental and substance use disorders.”



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The Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies, section **Sec. 19a-495c. Methadone delivery and related substance use treatment services to persons in a nursing home facility provides that a** “substance abuse treatment facility licensed as an institution pursuant to section 19a-490 and providing medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction shall be permitted to provide methadone delivery and related substance use treatment services to persons in a nursing home facility licensed pursuant to section 19a-493. The Department of Public Health may allow the delivery of methadone and related substance use treatment services to a nursing home facility if the Commissioner of Public Health determines that such delivery would not endanger the health, safety or welfare of any patient. No such delivery shall be conducted unless a substance abuse treatment facility proposing the delivery of methadone and related substance use treatment services has made a request for such delivery in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner and the commissioner has approved such request. Upon approving a request, the commissioner may impose conditions that assure the health, safety or welfare of any patient. The commissioner may revoke the approval of a request upon a finding that the health, safety or welfare of any patient has been jeopardized.

Working with stakeholders, the Department has made progress in the care and treatment of persons with substance use disorders, however, we recognize that this work needs to continue. As we plan future work, we are asking nursing homes to complete the survey monkey that has been created to gain a better understanding of any unmet needs there may be.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at the link below. Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGB7PZD>