



MRO ADVISORY:

The Undermining of Medical Review Officer Credentialing and Training Standards by SAMHSA and MROCC

Comments to DOT—Deadline April 4, 2010

All MROs involved in federal drug testing should be aware that SAMHSA has announced it intends to oversee the credentialing and activities of Medical Review Officers.

As benign as this may sound, SAMHSA's decision to "approve" MRO certification boards and oversee MRO activities frankly threatens the integrity of MRO credentialing and will result in the lowering of overall qualifications and minimum training standards.

Unfortunately, the MRO credentialing process has already been undermined by MROCC's decision last year to go to an online credentialing process for initial certification. (The "home study" MRO.) MROCC is now collaborating with SAMHSA to "approve" MRO certification boards.

It is important to know that the most basic core requirement of all medical certification boards (as well as other professional credentialing boards) is to have a proctored, closed-book exam. MROCC's decision to abandon a proctored examination is a disservice to its certified MROs and undermines the status of this area of practice.

It is not merely that MROCC has undermined its own program, but this opens the door for a race to the bottom for new credentialing bodies.

The Department of Transportation has requested comments on this and other SAMHSA proposals. **The deadline for comments is April 4.** I have submitted my comments and made specific recommendations to DOT which are now posted at www.aamro.com.

I hope you will take the opportunity to review the issues I have raised and submit your own comments to DOT.

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