



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

ALISON G. LAND, FACHE
COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921
Fax (804) 371-6638
www.dbhds.virginia.gov

April 20, 2020

RE: Process to Certify Preadmission Screening Clinicians

DBHDS would like to thank you for managing your staff during these unprecedented times to provide the state code mandated services to Virginians experiencing a behavioral health crisis. DBHDS recognizes the hard work you and your Emergency Services have done to implement plans to keep our Certified Preadmission Screening Clinicians (CPSC) safe while conducting preadmission screenings as well as commitment hearings. It is most remarkable how the CSBs and their community partners worked together to continue to provide these services in the most safe and efficient manner possible.

DBHDS recognizes the strain in maintaining a qualified workforce of CPSCs. Several agencies have contacted DBHDS with variance requests in relaxing the orientation requirements in order to have individuals certified with a quicker process. As the precautions for reducing the spread of the virus continues, agencies may find it more difficult to staff their Emergency Services programs. In order to assist those boards who may have difficulty maintaining adequate staffing, DBHDS has agreed to condense the certification process. The education and experiential requirements remain unchanged. The orientation process is as follows:

- Completion of the on-line Preadmission Screening Curriculum and the REACH modules (this can be completed during the 40 hours of observing/performing Emergency Services work).
- The 40 hours of observing the work in Emergency Services and the 40 hours of being observed performing the work in Emergency Services may be done concurrently.
- Each candidate for certification must complete at least three (3) preadmission screening evaluations under the direct observation of a CPSC. This can be done during the 40 hours of observing and observation.
- Attestation by their supervisor that, based upon direct observation, the applicant has reached a minimal acceptable level of clinical competence and procedural knowledge to be certified.

Please note that for individuals who have been certified prescreeners in the last 10 years, but may not be currently certified, DBHDS will only require the completion of the online Preadmission Screening Curriculum and the REACH modules in order to obtain certification.

CSBs will need to submit a request for a variance to the standard orientation process for DBHDS records, and, upon completion of the shortened orientation process, the supervisor will complete the application for certification and send to DBHDS (the request for variance and the application for certification can be sent together). DBHDS will send a letter granting a variance. Each of the individual's credentialed under

this variance will be certified for one year. If the agency plans to continue to use the individual in the role of CPSC, the individual will need to complete 16 hours per year of relevant continuing education and 12 hours of clinical supervision from a licensed CPSC who is a supervisor in emergency services.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mary Begor at mary.begor@dbhds.virginia.gov .