

MOUD Q&A

Question: Drug screens (Policy) 12VAC35-105-980.D. Please have regulations addressing appropriate drug screening for telemedicine based urine drug screening. Ex. Mail in screens are unable to address temperature and source of the specimen.

Answer: MOUD providers cannot provide services solely through telemedicine. Individuals served must receive medication in person, drug screens must occur in person, and a portion of counseling must occur in person. Mail in drug screens are impermissible.

Question: Hi there - I reviewed these and it seems like you are saying these apply to methadone clinics correct? OTP in the traditional sense, methadone. Is this correct? It seems like these things only apply to methadone clinics, meaning OTP in the traditional sense, is that correct?

Answer: Yes, these amendments are specific to the Medication for Opioid Use Disorder programs. "Medication for opioid use disorder" or "MOUD" means medications, including opioid agonist medications, approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the use in the treatment of opioid use disorder.

Question: Is the counseling session per 2 weeks applicable to buprenorphine patients seen in regular clinics or just OTP clinics? Does the counseling frequency requirement apply to non-OTP (non-methadone) regular clinics that only do buprenorphine and naltrexone?

Answer: For individuals, prescribed Methadone, the amendments allow for counseling to occur via telehealth; however, they require that an individual have one in-person counseling session every month during the first year of treatment and one in-person counseling session quarterly during the second year of treatment. This is stricter than federal regulations, which do not require in-person counseling and do not require a minimum number of counseling sessions.