

## **Additional Information Regarding SAMSHA Post-Public Health Emergency (PHE) Take-Home Medication Flexibilities**

**Question 1: What criteria is the patient required to meet to qualify for take-home medication doses under [SAMHSA's Take-Home Flexibilities Extension Guidance](#) (revised April 2023)?**

Answer 1: The Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner must consider the 6 point criteria outlined in SAMHSA's Take-Home Flexibilities Extension Guidance to determine whether a patient may receive take-home medications. A patient must also meet the time in treatment standards for the allowable ranges. Patients do not have to show that participation in the activities listed in 9 CCR § 10370(b)(1) are incompatible with daily Program attendance in order to qualify for take-home medications.

**Question 2: Are the number of dispensed take-home medication doses limited based on the “step levels” or length of time a patient has received take-home medication treatment?**

Answer 2: No, the Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner may use their clinical judgment to determine the appropriate number of take-home medication doses to dispense within the allowable range based on time in treatment. The maximum number of take-home medication doses NTPs may provide a patient are as follows:

1. 0 – 14 days in treatment, a patient may receive up to 7 take-home medication doses
2. 15 – 30 days in treatment, a patient may receive up to 14 take-home medication doses
3. 31 or more days in treatment, a patient may receive up to 28 take-home medication doses

The Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner may decrease or increase the number of take-home medication doses within the appropriate range for time in treatment, as often as necessary based on their clinical judgment regardless of how long the patient has been receiving treatment. The Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner must document their decision-making and discussions in the patient's charts, in accordance with SAMHSA's Take-Home Flexibilities Extension Guidance.

**Question 3: Are patients required to provide a monthly body specimen to test for the presence of both illicit drugs and the narcotic medication administered and dispensed from the Program?**

Answer 3: Yes, patients are still required to provide a monthly body specimen for testing.

**Question 4: If a patient's monthly body specimen is positive for illicit drugs and/or negative for the narcotic medication administered and dispensed from the Program, are they still eligible to receive take-home medication doses?**

Answer 4: Yes, a patient is still eligible to receive take-home medication doses if their monthly body specimen is positive for illicit drugs and/or negative for the narcotic medication administered and dispensed from the Program. The Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner may decrease or increase the number of take-home medication doses based on their clinical judgment and may take into consideration the results of the monthly body specimen when determining the number of take-home medication doses to dispense to a patient.

**Question 5: Can the Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner determine, based on their clinical judgment, that a patient should receive no take-home medication doses?**

Answer 5: Yes. The Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner may increase or decrease the number of take-home medication doses at any point during the patient's care. The Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner must document their decision-making and discussions in the patient's charts, in accordance with SAMHSA's Take-Home Flexibilities Extension Guidance.

**Question 6: If a Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner previously determined that a patient would receive zero take-home medication doses based on their clinical judgment, must the Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner wait until the patient meets all 6 criteria before receiving take-home medication doses?**

Answer 6: No, the Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner may determine that a patient can receive take-home medication doses at any point during the patient's care based on their clinical judgment. If a patient is eligible for take-home medication doses the Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner may use their clinical judgment to determine the number of take-home medication doses to dispense to a patient within the appropriate range for time in treatment. The Medical Director or NTP medical

practitioner must document their decision-making and discussions in the patient's charts, in accordance with SAMHSA's Take-Home Flexibilities Extension Guidance.

**Question 7: When is the Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner required to evaluate a patient who is eligible for take-home medication doses?**

Answer 7: The Medical Director or NTP medical practitioner must continue to evaluate patient treatment plans in accordance with 9 CCR § 10305(e)-(f), established Program policies and procedures, and based on the provider's discretion.