

Notice of Priority Admission to Substance Abuse Treatment

The federal Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, has identified certain populations that must receive priority admission to treatment when the cost of the services is covered by the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant. These populations are given priority status because of their impact on families and society.

Any substance abuse treatment program that receives funding from the SAPT Block Grant is required to give preference to treatment in the following order:

1. Pregnant women who inject drugs
2. Other pregnant women who need treatment
3. Others who inject drugs
4. Others who need treatment

Note: *Contractual agreements with the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse may be more stringent. Contracted programs are advised to consult the contract language.*

Any SAPT Block Grant-funded program that is unable to admit a pregnant woman because of insufficient capacity must either:

1. Refer to a treatment program that does have sufficient capacity, or
2. Provide interim services within 48 hours of the initial request for services. *For pregnant women, interim services must include referral for prenatal care.*

Any SAPT Block Grant-funded program that is unable to admit an injection drug user because of insufficient capacity must:

1. Refer to a treatment program that does have sufficient capacity, or
2. Provide interim services within 48 hours and admit to treatment within 120 days of the initial request.

For injection drug users, interim services must include counseling and education about:

- HIV and tuberculosis (TB)
- Risks of needle-sharing
- Risks of transmission to sexual partners and infants
- Steps that can be taken to ensure that HIV and TB transmission does not occur
- Referral for HIV or TB treatment services, if necessary

Block Grant-funded programs are required to have a mechanism in place for maintaining contact with pregnant women and injection drug users awaiting admission to treatment.

Any questions or concerns regarding compliance with these requirements may be directed to:

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