
About OPAP

The Oklahoma Peer Assistance Program (OPAP) is a voluntary, confidential program which assists licensed nurses whose competency may be impaired due to substance abuse and/or chemical dependency.

OPAP's services include:

Development of an individualized, structured plan of recovery;

Monitoring of participation compliance;

Encouragement, support; and

Education on chemical dependency issues.

What is Chemical Dependency?

Chemical Dependency is an addiction to and compulsive use of any mind-altering drug, including alcohol. This includes physical or psychological dependence on any drug, whether or not it has been prescribed by one or more physicians, diverted at work, obtained from friends or bought on the street. Fortunately, the illness is treatable. Appropriate and effective treatment can save a nurse's life, career and license.

OPAP Can Help

Nurses are not immune from substance abuse and chemical dependency. In fact, there may be an even greater risk of such problems due to the availability and accessibility of drugs in the work environment and stress-related issues of the profession. An alcohol or drug abuse problem left untreated may encourage the nurse to risk their life or health and compromise the safety of patients. OPAP provides hope, help and alternatives to nurses who experience these problems.

Public Protection

OPAP also safeguards the public by:

Facilitating early recognition and treatment of impaired nurses, and

Providing structured monitoring and follow-up of nurses participating in the program.

Referrals

OPAP is for any nurse licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma. Please contact us for details on eligibility and acceptance. Also available is information regarding the relationship between OPAP and the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, and specific services and benefits of participation.

Confidentiality

All requests for information and/or assistance are confidential, as well as all records of program participants. Records of participation in the OPAP program are protected by confidentiality as long as program compliance is maintained.