pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS

POLICY BULLETIN

No. 18-03

Issued Date: March 1 , 2018

Effective Date: Immediately

Subject: Governor Tom Wolf's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency

On January 10, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency related to the opioid epidemic that directly impacts treatment in Pennsylvania. Pursuant to the proclamation, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) regulation at 28 Pa. Code §715.25, which is a prohibition that prevents Narcotic Treatment Providers (NTPs) from establishing medication units, is being waived for the duration of the disaster emergency declaration, which is 90 days. However, a permanent waiver can be requested.

28 Pa. Code §715.25

This regulation prohibits NTPs from having medication units.

During the emergency declaration, NTPs may establish medication units. All other regulations, unless also specifically waived by the emergency declaration, remain in effect.

NTPs that plan to open a medication unit must submit a SMA-162 Form to the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment to be approved by the federal government. NTPs will also want to request a permanent waiver of the PA regulation and are strongly encouraged to file an exception request compliant with 28 Pa. Code §711.4 and a copy of the completed federal SMA-162 Form as soon as possible with the Division of D&A Program Licensing to RA-DADISASTERPROCLAM@pa.gov. In addition, the NTP will be required to file an abbreviated application that includes, but is not limited to, providing policies and procedures for the medication unit, as well as a copy of zoning and the occupancy permit from the appropriate, local authority.

Questions regarding this Policy Bulletin and exception requests shall be directed to Wenona Wake, Bureau Director for Quality Assurance for Prevention and Treatment, Division of D&A Program Licensing at (717)783-8675 or wwake@pa.gov.