



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

MITT ROMNEY  
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY R. MURPHY  
SECRETARY

PAUL J. COTE, JR.  
COMMISSIONER

Dear Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Provider,

We are writing at this time to make you aware of recent legislation regarding who may request a urine drug screen and to remind you of the applicable regulations on MassHealth reimbursement for drug screens.

Substance abuse treatment programs that are licensed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) are now permitted to request urine drug screens from clinical laboratories, without a physician's order. Recent legislation, Chapter 160 of the Acts of 2006, amended M.G.L. c.111D, § 8, permits DPH licensed substance abuse providers to make direct requests of clinical laboratories solely for requesting urine drug screens. It also permits state agencies or vendors that contract with state agencies and that are designated for this purpose by the contracted agency to request urine drug screens. Prior to this amendment, the statute required that a licensed physician or other authorized individual make such a request of clinical laboratories. Now, DPH licensed substance abuse treatment programs can directly request such screens.

Please note, although a licensed substance abuse treatment program can now directly request a drug screen for one of its clients without a physician, MassHealth regulations covering Medicaid reimbursement require that the drug screening services are: (1) medically necessary (130 CMR 450.204) and, (2) requested in writing by an individual authorized by state law to prescribe drugs (e.g. physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner - 130 CMR 410.416). Therefore, MassHealth will only reimburse clinical laboratories for urine drug screens which are medically necessary and prescribed by an authorized prescriber as described above.

If you have questions, please contact your appropriate Regional Manager.

Sincerely,

Michael Botticelli  
Assistant Commissioner, Substance Abuse Services

Vineyard Healthcare Associates  
455 State Road, Suite 15  
P.O. Box 495  
Vineyard Haven, Ma. 02568  
Phone-508-698-9900 Fax-508-698-0444

**CONFIDENTIAL  
FAX**

Date: 8/8/07

Deliver To Dr. Kishore

Fax Number 67 277 2848

Number of pages (including cover sheet) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Re: DPH req

**IMPORTANT WARNING:** This message is intended for the use of the person entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. The disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of the information is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and arrange for the return or destruction of these documents.

Punysankula S. Kishore, MD, MPH \* William O'Brien, MD \* Marcia Denton, RNC, NP