



July 8, 2015

Dear OTP Colleagues:

The general OTP (Opioid Treatment Program) provider community has consistently requested a lifting of NYS OTP capacity restrictions. Please be advised that OASAS is moving forward toward offering OTPs the opportunity for eliminating capacity restrictions.

OASAS' rationale for lifting capacity limits is, first and foremost, to increase patient access to medication assisted treatment (MAT) and the provision of these services in an OTP setting. In light of the recognition of the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic facing NYS, OASAS consider lifting OTP capacity to allow programs to better respond to patient demand and to allow managed care plans and patients an increased ability to choose programs based on outcomes and quality.

In considering the managed care changes that will be implemented in the entire Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field and specifically OTP services, improvement of treatment quality, adoption of person centered care, and improving general access to SUD services has been a significant topic of conversation. Diversifying OTP services to provide more comprehensive care, under one clinic setting, that meets patients' needs will be necessary. OASAS' intent is to coordinate the lifting of capacity restrictions with an overall strategy of expanding treatment options offered to patients as well as improving access to care.

**The following is the protocol that OTPs will need to follow in order to have their capacity limit lifted by OASAS:**

OTPs, regardless of geographic location, will be permitted to "apply" for a lifting of capacity. Approval will be based on the OTP's adopting the following:

Required of all OTPs:

Integrate the use of scheduled dosing and counseling visits within an OTP setting. Adopting assigned times or time slots/ranges for patients to receive their medication administration throughout the day, counseling visits and other services that the OTP renders will be required for any program seeking to have their capacity lifted. The purpose is to eliminate the need for patients to wait in lines for medication administration, more structured / less chaotic environment where opioid dependency treatment services will be delivered and to reduce the potential for diversion and loitering.

One of the following is also required:

In addition to integrating the use of scheduled dosing/ counseling visits, one additional option from the list below must be adopted. The purpose of this is to help improve the overall quality of care and increase system wide access to the full range of opioid treatment options within OTPs by adopting these specific practices:

1. Adopt use of buprenorphine, Vivitrol and/or other addiction medications; or
2. Integrate ancillary withdrawal services; or
3. Adopt peer support / recovery support services; or
4. Submit a plan to increase integration of physical and mental health services within the OTP setting; or

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**Office of Alcoholism and  
Substance Abuse Services**

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**ARLENE GONZÁLEZ-SÁNCHEZ, M.S.,  
L.M.S.W.**  
Commissioner

5. Other clinical relevant strategy for improving care, which OASAS would review and consider for approval.

To apply for your program to have its capacity lifted, you must fill out an application form (application form is attached) and email it to:

Dr. Belinda Greenfield, OASAS Bureau Director, Adult Treatment Services at  
[Belinda.greenfield@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:Belinda.greenfield@oasas.ny.gov)

Upon receipt of the application form, OASAS will review and provide a written response within 20 business days, either approving the application or requesting additional information to be submitted to OASAS. Upon approval of the application, the program must have the plan proposed in the application fully implemented within 6 months.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Gregory James at #646-728-4583 or  
[Gregory.james@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:Gregory.james@oasas.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Belinda Greenfield", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Belinda Greenfield, Ph.D.  
Bureau Director, Adult Treatment Services  
NY State Opioid Treatment Authority  
Division of Practice Innovation and Care Management  
NYS OASAS

Cc:  
Robert Kent  
Dr. Charles Morgan  
Pat Lincourt