

## **10A NCAC 27G .3605 MEDICATION UNITS AND MOBILE UNITS**

### **(a) Definitions**

- (1) "Opioid Treatment Program" (hereafter, OTP) means the same as defined in G.S. 122C-3(25a).
- (2) "OTP Facility" means the primary location on the facility license.
- (3) "Opioid Treatment Program Medication Unit" (hereafter OTP Medication Unit) means the same as defined in G.S. 122C-3(25b).
- (4) "Opioid Treatment Program Mobile Unit" (hereafter OTP Mobile Unit) means the same as defined in G.S. 122C-3(25c).

(b) The OTP Facility shall provide any medical, counseling, vocational, educational, and other assessment and treatment services not provided by the OTP Medication Unit or OTP Mobile Unit.

(c) The OTP shall determine the type of services to be provided at the OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units. The OTP shall clearly specify which services are offered at the OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units. Any services not offered at the OTP Medication Unit or Mobile Unit shall be provided at the OTP facility.

### **(d) Location and Service Capacity.**

- (1) The OTP shall ensure that each OTP Medication Unit and OTP Mobile Unit complies with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, including without limitation, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and Federal Drug Enforcement Agency regulations governing their operation.
- (2) An OTP with geographically separate OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units shall maintain and provide the location of each unit associated with the OTP.
- (3) The OTP Medication Units and Mobile Units shall operate within a radius of 75 miles from the Opioid Treatment Program facility.
- (4) The OTP shall maintain and provide schedules for the days and hours of operation to meet patient needs.
- (5) The OTP shall establish and implement an operating protocol identifying the number of patients allowed per OTP Medication Unit and OTP Mobile Unit based on staffing ratios.
- (6) The OTP shall establish and implement an operating protocol which includes predetermined location(s), hours of operations, and a daily departure guide and business record of each OTP Mobile Unit's location.

(e) Staffing Requirements. The OTP and any associated OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units shall maintain standard operating and emergency staffing to ensure service delivery at the OTP and any associated OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units. Staffing shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (1) The OTP and any associated OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units shall have a 1.0 FTE Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (LCAS), or Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist-Associate (LCAS-A) per 50 patients. This position can be filled by more than one LCAS or LCAS-A staff member (ratio 1:50); and
- (2) The OTP and any associated OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units shall have 1.0 FTE LCAS, LCAS-A, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Intern (CADC-I), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Clinical Social Worker – Associate (LCSW-A), Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC), Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor – Associate (LCMHC-A), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist – Associate (LMFT-A), Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA), or Licensed Psychologist (LP) for each additional 50 patients in the program (ratio 1:50); and
- (3) The OTP and any associated OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units shall have a Medical Director who is a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina and who meets the standards and requirements outlined in 42 CFR 8.2 and 42 CFR 8.12(b).
  - (A) The Medical Director is responsible for ensuring all medical, psychiatric, nursing, pharmacy, toxicology, and other services offered at the OTP and any associated OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units are conducted in compliance with State and Federal laws and regulations, consistent with appropriate standards of care; and
  - (B) The Medical Director shall be physically present at the OTP a minimum of four hours per month to assure regulatory compliance and to carry out those duties assigned to the Medical Director in 42 CFR 8.2 and 42 CFR 8.12(b)(2).
  - (C) The Medical Director shall be responsible for supervision of any physician extender(s) and other medical staff.

(f) Each OTP shall develop and implement a policy regarding the maintenance, location, and retention of records for its OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units, in accordance with State and Federal laws and regulations.

(g) Operations and Service Delivery

- (1) Each OTP Medication Unit and OTP Mobile Unit shall be deemed part of the OTP license and shall be subject to inspections the Department deems necessary to validate compliance with all applicable rules, and State and Federal laws and regulations.
- (2) The OTP shall ensure that its OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units adhere to all State and federal program requirements for Opioid Treatment Programs.
- (3) Each OTP Medication Unit and OTP Mobile Unit shall establish and implement a written policy and procedure for operations that meets the needs of its patients.
- (4) The OTP shall establish and implement policies and procedures for a clinical and individualized assessment of patients to receive services at an OTP Medication Unit or OTP Mobile Unit that considers medical and clinical appropriateness and accessibility to patients served.
- (5) The OTP shall ensure that patients receiving services at an OTP Medication Unit or OTP Mobile Unit receive a minimum of two counseling sessions per month during the first year of continuous treatment and a minimum of one counseling session per month after the first year and in all subsequent years of continuous treatment.
- (6) Counseling staff shall be available, either in person and on-site or by telehealth, a minimum of five days per week to offer and provide counseling in accordance with the patient's treatment plan or person-centered plan.
- (7) The OTP shall establish and implement a policy and procedure to determine the appropriateness of telehealth services for a patient that takes into consideration the patient's choice along with the patient's behavior, physical, and cognitive abilities. The patient's verbal or written consent shall be documented when telehealth services are provided.
- (8) The OTP shall ensure that patients receiving services at an OTP Medication Unit or OTP Mobile Unit receive medical interventions, including naloxone, when medically necessary and in compliance with the patient's treatment plan, person-centered plan, standing orders, or emergency intervention protocols.
- (9) An OTP and its associated OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units shall ensure that all dosing of medication to patients on the site of the OTP and any associated OTP Medication Units and OTP Mobile Units is directly observed by a Physician, Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse, or Licensed Practical Nurse, in accordance with applicable State and Federal Law and the OTP's Diversion Control Plan.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 122C-35; 42 C.F.R. 8.12; Emergency Adoption Eff. September 23, 2024.*