



Medical Board-Impairment Modernization September 2023

Recently, the State Medical Board of Ohio (“Board”) took steps, in conjunction with the Ohio Professionals Health Program (“OhioPHP”) to modernize the statutes, rules, contracts and policies related to impaired physicians and other healthcare licensed by the Board. Implementation of this plan includes several major changes to the Board’s current regulatory structure:

- Impairment includes an inability to practice due to mental and physical health, in addition to substance use disorder.
- OhioPHP, rather than the Board, will approve treatment providers for impaired practitioners.
- The one-bite program will be changed to the **confidential monitoring program** and will be available for impaired practitioners who relapse and remain under monitoring with OhioPHP, rather than being a one-time opportunity, and also includes confidential participation for potential and impairing mental health and physical health conditions.
- The details of evaluation and treatment will be set by clinical providers, working with OhioPHP, rather than having minimums based on provider type set through rule.
- The Board will have the option to refer disciplinary monitoring to OhioPHP.

The statutory changes were adopted through Ohio's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 operating budget, HB33. The regulatory changes have gone through the CSI process and the rule changes were filed with JCARR on August 31st. The rules hearing is scheduled for October 4th and the rules are expected to become effective in mid-November.

OhioPHP is working with the medical board to develop informational program documents, FAQs, as well as live and on-demand training opportunities. Visit ohiophp.org for updates and more information!