

DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECOVERY MONITORING PROGRAM PARTICIPATION COSTS AND INITIAL PRACTICE RESTRICTIONS

The Physician Assistant Board contracts with Maximus, Inc. to provide drug and alcohol recovery monitoring program services for licensees required to participate in the program. This fact sheet provides general information about fees and initial practice restrictions associated with participation in the program. These fees are in effect as of May 2023 and are subject to change.

Services and Treatment Resources – Participants are responsible for paying for any treatment recommended by the EC/PRC or by the Board. If the participant needs assistance in identifying the most appropriate location for treatment, the Maximus Clinical Case Manager will assist in identifying specific treatment Programs. The participant is responsible for paying for all fees associated with all levels of treatment, including therapy and counseling.

Clinical Assessment/Clinical Reassessment – Upon completion of initial intake by the Clinical Case Manager, an appointment is scheduled with the Clinician Assessor for an in-person interview. Maximus will pay the fee for the Clinician Assessment of \$225.00. If a participant does not attend the clinical assessment appointment, and does not provide 24-hour advance notice of the cancellation, the participant will be assessed a \$225.00 fee, paid to the Clinical Assessor.

Participants may be formally reassessed annually or more frequently if required by his or her recovery contract or applicable Board or EC/PRM. Maximus will pay the fee for the annual Clinician Assessor's reassessment of \$150.00. Participants requiring mental health evaluations/treatment other than the annual reassessment will be required to pay the provider with their own funds. If a participant does not attend the clinical reassessment appointment, and does not provide 24-hour advance notice, the participant will be assessed a \$150.00 fee, paid to the Clinical Assessor.

A more intensive assessment may be requested by the Board or EC/PRM. This more intensive assessment typically involves a 3-day or 7-day stay in an inpatient Chemical Dependency treatment program. The participant is responsible for all travel costs and fees associated with this intensive assessment.

Professional Support Group – Participants are required to attend a professional health support group once or twice per week. Participants are required to pay a participation fee of \$200 to \$400.00 monthly to the Health Support Group Facilitator. The Maximus Clinical Case Manager will determine where the closest health support group is located, and direct the participant to contact that support group facilitator to make arrangements to attend that group.

The CCM will assist the participant in identifying affordable treatment facilities and/or locating alternate Health Support Group (HSG) meetings (in lieu of attending the Maximus HSG meetings) that are at a lower cost to the participant, if there is not an HSG meeting within fifty (50) miles of the participant's residence. The CCM will consider any alternate support group identified by the participant, as long as the support group facilitator meets the minimum requirements required of the contracted support group facilitators, must agree to submit monthly reports online in MAX-CMS, and the participant must sign all required consents. The CCM will obtain approval by the Board prior to approving a participant to attend an alternate support group.

Drug Testing – The participant is required to pay the cost of their random drug testing at \$57.50 per test (effective 7/1/2020). Additional drug testing may be scheduled for various reasons, involving urine, hair, nail or blood samples. These additional tests are not done on a regular basis, and are typically more costly than the random drug testing. A PEth test, which is a blood test for a metabolite of alcohol, is \$110 plus the cost of collection. Hair or nail tests, which test for multiple substances over a window of several months, cost between \$58.00 to \$238.00 depending on the substances tested. There are other variations of hair or nail testing which may have different prices.

In all cases, the board requires observed collections. Collection fees will be included in your testing cost. You will not be required to pay for anything at time of collection. Your panel and collection will be billed monthly on your current schedule through your lab vendor account. There is a preferred network for regular testing that will charge your lab vendor account \$30 per urine collection. All other collection sites (out of network) will be charged to your account at \$50.00. All blood and hair collections are \$45 charged to your lab vendor account when collected at any collection site. The frequency of the testing varies, the testing is scheduled randomly throughout the year and will include weekends and holidays.

Administrative Fee – The participant is required to pay a monthly Program administrative participation fee to Maximus of \$461.21 if a Board Referral and \$348.16 if a Self Referral.

If the participant fails to pay their required portion of the fee, the fees are not charged to the Board. Maximus will continue to attempt to collect fees owed by the participants. Maximus may terminate a participant who is obligated to pay the entire cost of the program directly to Maximus. Prior to the termination, the Maximus will work with the participant in good faith to establish a repayment plan and notify the participant via a noncompliance letter(s). If the participant fails to adhere to the agreed upon repayment plan with Maximus, or pay the outstanding monthly administrative fees, not to exceed the value of three (3) months of full payments, the Maximus may terminate the participant for failure to pay.

Initial Practice Restrictions

Business and Professions Code Section [315](#) requires the board to use the Uniform Standards formulated by the Department of Consumer Affairs Substance Abuse Coordination Committee entitled, "Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Arts Licensees." Uniform Standard 2 requires that the board order a licensee to cease practice pending the results of the clinical diagnostic evaluation and review by diversion program/board staff.

While awaiting the results of the evaluation participants are randomly drug tested at least two times per week.

After reviewing the results of the clinical diagnostic evaluation, program and board staff will determine if the participant is safe to return to practice. If the participant is determined safe to return to practice, program and board staff will then authorize the number of hours permitted to practice. However, no participant shall be returned to practice until he or she has at least 30 days of negative drug tests.

A complete copy of the "Uniform Standards Regarding Substance-Abusing Healing Arts Licensees" may be found at: http://www.dca.ca.gov/enforcement/uniform_standards

Additional Information

Maximus staff are available at 800-522-9198 to answer questions regarding the Recovery Program fees and participation requirements.