

## **PROVIDER ALERT**

### **Resumption of Licensing Activities**

#### **August 6, 2021**

**Target Audience: ALL COMAR 10.63 Licensed Programs**

Pursuant to the Governor's Order of March 12, 2020, the Behavioral Health Administration suspended mandatory renewal of COMAR 10.63 licenses in situations that would not endanger the public health, welfare or safety during the COVID State of Emergency.

With the declared emergency's end on July 1, 2021, licensing requirements are now back in full effect, as of August 15, 2021, as outlined in the Governor's order referenced above.

Accreditation Organizations have altered their own practices and schedules because of the pandemic, causing delays in both new accreditation and renewals.

To accommodate providers and to ensure that the accreditation process is once again operating smoothly, the Behavioral Health Administration is instituting the following measures, effective immediately:

1. Programs whose accreditation-based licenses have expired have until August 31, 2021 to submit documentation from an Accreditation Organization approved to credential their services which shows either:
  - a. a specific date for an upcoming accreditation review visit, or
  - b. a range of dates during which an accreditation visit will take place.

The accreditation may be scheduled after the August 31st deadline. However, any accreditation scheduled after August 31st, must be to meet the needs of the Accreditation Organization, and not merely an accommodation to a provider's lack of readiness.

Documentation must be submitted to [bha.licensing@maryland.gov](mailto:bha.licensing@maryland.gov). An extension will be granted if:

- a. The Program corporate status is in good status.
  - b. Staffing remains compliant with regulatory standards.
  - c. A completed application has been received, and the survey has been scheduled. Any additional extension will only be granted if the survey is postponed at the request of the accreditation organization.
2. Programs with State-only (non-accreditation-based) licenses have until August 31, 2021 to submit a renewal application for COMAR 10.63 to [bha.licensing@maryland.gov](mailto:bha.licensing@maryland.gov). Applications must be on the latest form, which may be found under "Licensing Information" here: <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Pages/accreditation-information.aspx>. BHA will extend licenses as necessary, and arrange for site visits. In the event of delays in obtaining updated fire inspections and other documentation, providers should immediately contact [bha.licensing@maryland.gov](mailto:bha.licensing@maryland.gov) to review options. We have recently encountered situations in which fire inspections are no longer done by local authorities. In residential settings, if this is the case, BHA will accept a commercial fire inspection instead.
3. BHA will extend existing licenses in the scenarios above to account for site visit delays by Accreditation Organizations or BHA personnel to allow existing providers to continue operations as long as the provider remains in good standing with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, is properly staffed, and has not suffered an adverse accreditation determination.
4. **As of August 31, 2021, BHA will begin terminating licenses that have expired and are not in the renewal process according to the above requirements.**

Providers with questions or concerns regarding this alert should contact [bha.regulations@maryland.gov](mailto:bha.regulations@maryland.gov).

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team