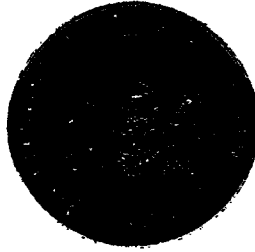


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MARY S. WYATTE, CHIEF COUNSEL



PHONE: (717) 783-5417
FAX: (717) 783-2664
irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
<http://www.irrc.state.pa.us>

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

October 24, 2002

Honorable Feather O. Houstoun, Secretary
Department of Public Welfare
333 Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105

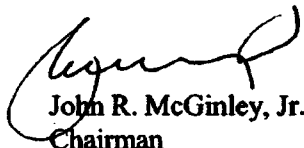
Re: Regulation #14-476 (IRRC #2291)
Department of Public Welfare
Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Clinic Services

Dear Secretary Houstoun:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved your regulation today. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at www.irrc.state.pa.us.

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that meets the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,



John R. McGinley, Jr.
Chairman

evp
Enclosure

cc: Honorable George T. Kenney, Jr., Majority Chairman, House Health and Human Services Committee

Honorable Frank L. Oliver, Democratic Chairman, House Health and Human Services Committee

Honorable Harold F. Mowery, Jr., Chairman, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Honorable Vincent J. Hughes, Minority Chairman, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Nia Wilson, Legal Counsel, House Health and Human Services Committee

Stanley Mitchell, Chief Counsel, House Health and Human Services Committee

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held October 24, 2002

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman, by Phone
Arthur Coccodrilli
Robert J. Harbison, III
John F. Mizner

Regulation No. 14-476
Department of Public Welfare
Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Clinic Services

On September 12, 2002, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this regulation from the Department of Public Welfare (Department). This rulemaking amends 55 Pa. Code Chapter 1223. Notice of proposed rulemaking was omitted for this regulation; it will become effective upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

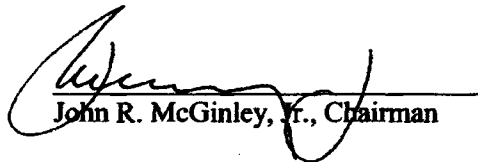
This final-omitted regulation eliminates the requirement that an outpatient drug and alcohol clinic's supervisory physician to perform a comprehensive medical exam on a patient within fifteen days following intake and before the provision of treatment. This revision provides Medical Assistance recipients access to drug and alcohol treatment prior to a comprehensive medical examination. Approved standards of clinical necessity for Medical Assistance patients will now be enforced. This regulation is a result of changes made to regulations promulgated by the Department of Health.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Department (62 P.S. § 443.3(1)) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This regulation is approved.




John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman