

Vermont Practitioner  
Health Program

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VERMONT MEDICAL  
SOCIETY'S

PRACTITIONERS NEED  
NOT SUFFER. HELP IS  
AVAILABLE  
AND IT WORKS.

Confidential number:  
802.223.0400

[http://www.vtmd.org/education/  
practitioner-health](http://www.vtmd.org/education/practitioner-health)

*Vermont  
Practitioner  
Health  
Program*

Vermont  
Medical  
Society

A confidential program  
designed and administered  
by practitioners,  
for practitioners.

# Vermont Practitioner Health Program

## About VPHP

The Vermont Practitioner Health Program (VPHP) is a health service of the Vermont Medical Society for the benefit of Vermont's health professionals. Its purpose is to identify, evaluate and ensure effective treatment for clinicians whose ability to practice medicine is impaired, or is at the risk of becoming impaired. Physicians (including M.D.s and D.O.s), podiatrists, radiology assistants, anesthesia assistants and physician assistants are eligible to participate.

VPHP assists practitioners dealing with impairment or risk of impairment due to excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, as well as impairment caused by any factor that interferes with cognition, judgment or behavior. This includes mental health and cognitive issues.

**“Nothing is impossible; the word itself says, ‘I’m possible!’”**

## Referrals

Referrals come from colleagues, employers, family members, friends, or patients, as well as self-referrals. Each referral is treated individually, in a compassionate and confidential manner. Participation with VPHP is voluntary.

## What happens after I call VPHP?

Participation in VPHP is tailored to each individual, but often includes:

1. Complete intake paperwork
2. Meet with VPHP Medical Director to assess impairment and need for further evaluation
3. Referral to independent in-state or out-of-state evaluator to establish diagnosis and treatment recommendations
4. Implement and monitor compliance with a treatment plan, which may include primary care, therapy/counseling, group recovery meetings, testing for substances and practice monitoring

## Relationship with the Vermont Board of Medical Practice

VPHP is independent of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. VPHP does not disclose the identity of self-referred participants to the Board except where there is injury or the risk of injury to a patient, a criminal act, relapse to the use of alcohol or drugs, or repeated failures by the participant to abide by their monitoring contract with VPHP. In instances where the participant is referred by the Board, the participant may be asked to consent to share more information. Documentation of participation in and compliance with our monitoring program can be essential in helping to restore and/or maintain licensure.

## Leadership

VPHP's efforts are led by a Medical Director who assesses all referred professionals and manages clinical operations. Program Administrator Colleen Magne handles the day-to-day program operations. The program is also assisted by a Case Management Committee.

## WHY CONTACT VPHP?

The sooner a diagnosis is made and treatment is initiated, the better the prognosis and the more likely there can be recovery before a practitioner's skill and medical practice are compromised.

Long-term studies have reported recovery rates between 70-90 percent for physicians with substance use disorders monitored by PHPs. Abstinence rates approaching 90 percent are reported for physicians in PHPs with substance use disorders, at the end of five years.

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