

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 created 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, medical trainees, radiology assistants, anesthesia assistants and physician assistants are eligible to participate.

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

Our Staff

VPHP's efforts are led by our Medical Director, Nels Kloster, MD, who assesses all referred professionals and manages clinical operations. Program Administrator Colleen Magne handles day-to-day program operations. The VPHP Committee is made up of clinician peer support advisors who assist VPHP participants in their recovery and provide valuable input to the program's operations.

What happens after I call VPHP?

While each individual's experience is unique, the typical process includes:

1. Completing intake paperwork
2. Speaking with the VPHP Medical Director for an assessment to establish need for further evaluation or monitoring
3. Referral to an independent in-state or out-of-state expert for a comprehensive evaluation and treatment recommendations
4. Implementing and monitoring 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 in some cases where there is a risk of danger to the public. In instances where the participant is referred by the Board, the participant may be asked to consent to share more information with the Board. Documentation of participation in and compliance with our monitoring program can be essential in helping to restore and/or maintain licensure.

Referrals

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

WHY CONTACT VPHP?

The sooner practitioners start treatment, the better their prognosis and the more likely they will recover before their medical practice and life are compromised.

The good news: Long-term studies have reported recovery rates between 70-90% for physicians with substance use disorders monitored by PHPs. Abstinence rates approaching 90% have been reported for physicians in PHPs with substance use disorders at the end of five years. So, please don't wait.

Call now.

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