



Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

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March 25, 2020

Mr. Mark W. Parrino, M.P.A.  
President  
American Association for the Treatment  
of Opioid Dependence, Inc.  
225 Varick Street, Suite 402  
New York, NY 10014

Dear Mr. Parrino:

Thank you for the work you and your organization continue to do on behalf of millions of Americans living with opioid use disorders (OUDs). During this time, it is critical that these individuals continue to get the care and treatment they need.

A significant portion of this care will be provided in opioid treatment programs (OTPs). This care will often require physical contact and examination of patients performed by health care professionals. This letter is to certify agreement of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that the services provided in OTPs across the country are essential medical services.

Because of the nature of these services, many professionals providing them may require the use of personal protective equipment, such as masks, gloves, or gowns. This letter serves as confirmation from SAMHSA that the ordering of such supplies by OTPs is for a legitimate need and purpose.

Thank you again for your continued work for this population.

Sincerely,

Elinore F. McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health  
and Substance Use