



Date: August 23, 2016

DQA Numbered Memo 16-010

To: [Pain Clinics](#)

From: Crenear Mims, Director  
Bureau of Health Services

Via: Otis Woods, Administrator  
Division of Quality Assurance

## Notification of Pain Clinic Certification Program

### Purpose

The Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) is responsible for certifying pain clinics. Effective March 17, 2016, [2015 Wisconsin Act 265](#) places certification requirements for pain clinics to operate as defined in Wis. Stat. ch. 50.

### Background

A pain clinic is defined in Wis. Stat. § 50.60(3) as:

- (a) A privately owned facility where a majority of the health care providers, practicing within the scope of their licenses, devotes a majority of their practices to the treatment of pain syndromes through the practice of pain medicine or interventional pain medicine.
- (b) A privately owned facility that advertises or otherwise holds itself out as providing pain medicine or interventional pain medicine services and that has one or more employees or contractors who prescribe opioids or opiates, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, or carisoprodol as chronic therapy for pain syndromes.

Pain clinic regulations *do not apply* to any of the following:

- (a) A medical or dental school, nursing school, physician assistant training program, or outpatient clinic associated with any of the schools or training programs specified in this paragraph.
- (b) A hospital, as defined in § 50.33 (2).
- (c) Hospice, as defined in § 50.90 (1).
- (d) A nursing home, as defined in § 50.01 (3).

## **Certification Requirements**

A pain clinic *must* submit an application to DHS. DHS is required to issue a certificate of operation if the pain clinic meets the requirements specified in Wis. Stat. §§ 50.60 and 50.65, has paid any required application fee, and meets any additional requirements established by DHS.

Each pain clinic location is required to be certified; however, a business entity that owns more than one pain clinic may apply for a single certificate for all pain clinics it owns. A pain clinic is required to have a medical director who is a physician licensed to practice in Wisconsin.

A pain clinic, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 50.60 (3), may continue to operate without the certificate required under Wis. Stat. § 50.65 (1) (a) if the pain clinic submits an application for a certificate under § 50.65 (1) within 30 days after the date DHS published the certificate application process at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/regulations/painclinic/introduction.htm> (published August 23, 2016).

## **Questions**

For questions regarding this memo or to obtain application materials, you may contact the DQA Bureau of Health Services (BHS), Licensing, Certification, and CLIA Section at 608-266-7485 or [DHSDQACLIA@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSDQACLIA@dhs.wisconsin.gov).