

THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF RECOVERING PHARMACISTS POLICIES

The Mississippi Association of Recovering Pharmacists is a monitoring and advocacy peer-assistance and peer-review program administered by volunteers who are concerned with pharmacy recovery issues. The purpose of MARP is to assist impaired pharmacy professionals, including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. MARP does not limit itself to only these groups. Other health care individuals may become part of the group on an individual basis. The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Association would decide on these individuals who are outside the primary scope of the group. MARP concerns itself with those individuals whose dependency and/or disability is potentially threatening to professional performance and public safety. Services provided by MARP are intended to be in the best interest of the professional and the public. MARP's activities are designed to preserve the involved professionals reputation and ability to render competent and quality pharmaceutical care.

Activities of the Mississippi Association of Recovering Pharmacists are administered through the Executive Board and Impaired Pharmacists Committee of MARP. MARP also contains a Funding Committee. The work of the organization for the most part is carried out by volunteers throughout the state of Mississippi. MARP may employ an unlimited number of paid staff- however, at no time, will paid employees outnumber volunteers nor will paid employees be allowed to constitute more than 1/3 (one-third) of any standing committee.

Definition of Terms

1. **MARP-** means the Mississippi Association of Recovering Pharmacists- an impaired pharmacy professional recovery program established to aid the recovery of impaired pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and other health care individuals which the Executive Board of MARP opts to include.
2. **BOARD-** means the Mississippi State Board of Pharmacy
3. **RECOVERY CONTRACT-** means the written document establishing the terms for an individual professional's participation in the recovery program
4. **IMPAIRMENT-** means the inability to practice pharmacy with reasonable safety and skill as a result of alcohol or drug abuse, dependency, addiction, or any neuropsychological or physical disorder or disability
5. **PHARMACY PROFESSIONAL or PROFESSIONAL-** means a Mississippi licensed pharmacist registered with the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy
6. **EXECUTIVE BOARD-** means the main governing body of MARP whose function it is to set up parameters within MARP such as setting dues, establishing and maintaining the By-Laws and Charter of the organization, and setting forth policies and procedures of the organization

7. **IPC-** means the Impaired Pharmacists Committee of MARP - a standing committee established to review contracts and assure that they are being complied with
8. **SELF-REPORT-** means the pharmacy professional has provided written or oral notification to the Board or MARP that the professional has been or may be diagnosed as having impairment prior to the Board's receiving a complaint or report alleging the same from a second party
9. **ADVOCATE-** an advocate is a recovering pharmacy professional or other interested and properly educated pharmacy professional who serves to provide peer support and assistance to an impaired professional as they enter treatment and recovery. Their responsibilities may include being involved in MARP activities, accompanying the recovering professional to board hearings, writing letters on behalf of recovering professionals, helping recovering professionals re-enter into the profession by helping with job searches or serving as a reference, and helping recovering professionals accumulate continuing education hours for relicensure or recertification when necessary.
10. **COMMITTEE CHAIR-** each committee shall appoint from within a person who will serve as the coordinator of the committee and who will have the responsibility to keep the committee in focus.
11. **COMMITTEE SECRETARY-** the official elected Secretary of MARP shall serve as the Secretary of the Executive Board and the IPC shall elect from with a Secretary to keep minutes
13. **CONTACT PERSON-** each contractee shall be appointed a contact person. A contact person shall be a member of MARP in good standing. The contractee shall report any prescription being given to him/her to his/her contact person immediately. The contact person will be the person the contractee reports to directly.
14. **PRIMARY PHYSICIAN-** each contractee shall choose a primary physician- this is, a physician who is completely familiar with the contractee and the contractee's disease of addiction. The primary physician should be a physician who is familiar with addiction and mood-altering chemicals.
15. **MARP MONITOR-** MARP shall at all times have in employment a non-member of the organization who will randomly call urine drug screens and blood alcohols on all contractees.
16. **BOARD OF PHARMACY EX-OFFICIO MEMBER-** the Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy shall serve at his/her discretion as an ex-officio member of the Mississippi Association of Recovering Pharmacists. This person is permitted to attend all monthly meetings of the Mississippi Association of Recovering Pharmacists.
17. **DOCUMENTATION-** MARP shall maintain books, records, and documentation which sufficiently and properly document and calculate all charges incurred within the scope of its operation for a period of at least 3 years.

18. **IMMUNITY-** members of the Standing Committees of the Mississippi Association of Recovery Pharmacists shall not be held liable for acts, omissions or decisions made in connection with service on the committee. However, such immunity, from civil liability shall not apply if such act is done with malice.
19. **MONTHLY MEETING-** MARP shall conduct a monthly meeting (12 times a year) for the purpose of conducting its business. A MARP attendance required seminar may be substituted for any of these monthly meetings at the discretion of the Executive Board.
20. **CONFIDENTIALITY-**all MARP members, including committee members, paid staff, contractees, and anyone at all who attends a MARP meeting must sign a statement of confidentiality. This statement will be kept on file at the office of MARP.
21. **OFFICERS-** MARP shall elect every year one president, two vice-presidents, one treasurer, and one secretary.
22. **EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS-** MARP shall elect members per bylaws yearly members to the Executive Board
23. **IPC-** MARP shall elect members per bylaws yearly to the IPC