

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF NURSING COMMITTEE ON IMPAIRED NURSES

The "Nurses Rehabilitation Program Act of 2000" was passed establishing a Committee On Impaired Nurses to supervise the operation of a rehabilitation program for nurses licensed in the District of Columbia. The purpose of the Committee is to provide an alternative to the Board's disciplinary process for nurses who are impaired due to drug or alcohol dependence or mental illness.

The Committee monitors the recovery of nurses and their practice to assure that they practice within acceptable standards of nursing care. All information about the participants in the program is confidential.

Admission to the program is voluntary. Impaired nurses may be referred to the program through self-reports, formal complaints and/or the Board of Nursing. A nurse requesting admission to the program may not have caused patient injury or have been arrested and/or convicted for diversion of controlled substances for sale or distribution.

Once a nurse is admitted to the program, the nurse and Committee enter into an agreement that outlines the conditions that must be met by the nurse. The conditions include such requirements as continued treatment with progress reports to the Committee, urine screens, employer reports and self reports. The conditions may also limit where the nurse can work, hours of work, and administration of controlled substances. Failure to comply with the conditions in the agreement shall result in a report to the Board for disciplinary action. All records are purged and destroyed two years following the nurse's discharge from the program.

For referrals or additional information contact:
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