



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

FAQs for Nurses: Substance Abuse Issues

1. **I am a nurse with an alcohol or substance abuse addiction or chemical dependence, who diverted drugs, or tested positive for illicit or illegal drugs, what should I do?** You should immediately report this action to the Department by calling (312) 814-6910 or completing a [Nursing Self Report Form](#), available on idfpr.com.
2. **What happens after I self-report?** You will be contacted by a Department representative to discuss the next steps which may include meeting with a Department attorney and a member of the Board of Nursing. Please make sure your phone number and email address are current with the Department. The Department representatives will contact you via the phone number and email address you have provided.
3. **Will I be disciplined if I report this?** If you self-report your addiction or chemical dependence, drug diversion, or positive drug test to the Department, you may be eligible for a Care, Counseling, & Treatment Agreement, which is not a disciplinary action.
4. **What is a Care, Counseling, & Treatment Agreement (“CCT”)?** A confidential agreement between a nurse and the Department wherein the nurse seeks recommended treatment. A nurse may continue to practice so long as they abide by the terms of the agreement.
5. **Is a CCT confidential?** The agreement remains confidential unless the nurse violates its terms.
6. **How do I qualify for a CCT?** You must meet the following requirements:
 - a. You self-report your issue before the Department has filed a formal complaint;
 - b. You have no prior discipline regarding substance abuse;
 - c. You have not been convicted criminally of any felony or drug-related misdemeanor, and no criminal action is pending;
 - d. You have acknowledged your addiction or chemical dependence;
 - e. You have submitted to an alcohol substance abuse assessment, as required by the Department, and are following the recommendations of the assessment.
7. **What is an alcohol or substance abuse assessment?** An evaluation by a physician who is a certified addictionist or an advanced practice registered nurse with specialty certification in addiction.
8. **How can I find a physician or advanced practice registered nurse to complete my alcohol or substance abuse assessment?** Contact the Illinois Professionals Health Program at (847) 892-7910 or visit www.illinoisphp.com for more information about this program.
9. **How much does an alcohol or substance abuse assessment cost?** An assessment may cost between \$250 and \$500 depending on the physician or advanced practice registered nurse. The licensee is responsible for the cost of the assessment.

DISCLAIMER: The above questions and answers are provided for general information only and may not be completely accurate in every circumstance, do not purport to be legal advice, and are not intended to be legally binding on the Department in a particular case. Questions involving interpretation of the law and your legal rights and obligations should be addressed to your lawyer.