



OhioPHP



Board of
Nursing

OHIO BOARD OF NURSING SAFE HAVEN PROGRAM FAQ

What is a safe haven program?

A safe haven program is a confidential path for individuals to seek help for burnout, mental health or substance use disorders. Once an individual is referred to the safe haven program, OhioPHP can provide referrals for community resources and is a therapeutic alternative to regulatory action for chronic illnesses. OhioPHP also provides comprehensive well-being screenings for healthcare professionals, as well as long-term, therapeutic monitoring to observe and check the progress of one's recovery through therapy, group support, toxicology testing, and self-assessments.

What is monitoring?

Monitoring occurs when an assessment indicates that a healthcare professional is experiencing an illness that could benefit from long-term, ongoing, and therapeutic support. A standard monitoring agreement is used as a tool to observe and check the progress of a person's illness and may range from 1-5 years. All monitoring agreements are individualized to best meet the needs of each participant and may include therapy, group support, toxicology testing, self-assessments, and advocacy from OhioPHP in regard to their success and progress.

What is included in OhioPHP's comprehensive well-being screenings?

OhioPHP offers a comprehensive well-being screen for healthcare professionals. We utilize a multi-disciplinary team approach to provide recommendations related to burnout, mental health disorders, substance use disorders and others. Screenings may include any/all of the following:

- Clinical interview(s) with master's level, licensed mental health counselor, or social worker
- Clinical interview with a physician or nurse practitioner
- Pre-assessment screenings
- Toxicology testing (as necessary)

Who is eligible to participate in the Ohio Board of Nursing's safe haven program?

Licensees and applicants of the Ohio Board of Nursing.

How do I enroll in the safe haven program?

If you or a colleague needs help, contact OhioPHP. OhioPHP's clinical team will conduct an initial assessment then will provide recommendations that may include additional evaluation for burnout, mental health or substance use disorders, individual counseling, and/or any necessary treatment. Once a diagnosis has been made, licensees may enroll in long-term, therapeutic monitoring through the safe haven program.



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Is there a cost associated with the safe haven program?

OhioPHP utilizes a sliding-scale structure for its fees. This ensures that we can continue to provide high-quality support while accommodating the diverse needs of our community. The sliding scale is designed to make our services accessible to all, regardless of financial circumstances. To learn more about your program fees visit www.ohiophp.org/obn-fees.

If I receive a diagnosis of a mental health or substance use disorder, what are the requirements to participate in the safe haven program?

After a diagnosis is made, OhioPHP will make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as needed. Once those are completed, OhioPHP may also recommend monitoring for 1-5 years. Monitoring agreements may include therapy, group support, toxicology testing, and self-assessments. As long as an individual is compliant with the terms of their monitoring agreement, safe haven program participation will remain confidential.

What role does OhioPHP have in the safe haven program?

OhioPHP is approved by the OBN to provide referrals for community resources and to conduct well-being screens for the safe haven program. OhioPHP is also the designated monitoring organization administering the safe haven program, which allows for OhioPHP to provide services to OBN licensees confidentially.

If I am concerned a colleague may be suffering from a mental health or substance use disorder, what should I do?

If a licensee believes a colleague is suffering from a substance use disorder or physical or mental impairment, they may contact OhioPHP.

Will the Ohio Board of Nursing know about my participation in the safe haven program?

OhioPHP is committed to providing confidential support while also complying with state and national licensure requirements. Per Ohio law, and the nurse licensure compact (NLC) law, an applicant cannot obtain, nor can a licensee retain, a multistate license privilege when enrolled in the safe haven program. OhioPHP is required to notify the Board of Nursing of any licensee or applicant who enrolls in the safe haven program for deactivation of the multistate licensure privilege for the duration of the nurse's participation in the safe haven program. When this occurs, a nurse's multi-state license is converted to a single-state license. Participation will be noted on NURSYS.com for other Boards of Nursing. This process ensures that licensing remains in full alignment with the NLC and state regulatory standards.

Because OhioPHP programs operate under the rules of Ohio's healthcare licensing boards, it is important for participants who hold licenses in other jurisdictions or under the NLC to remain aware of the requirements in those states. Participants are responsible for understanding and following the regulations of each state where they are licensed. OhioPHP is available to provide support and guidance as participants navigate these requirements.

Safe Haven Program: ORC 4723.35 & 4723.351, OAC 4723-19-01, 4723-19-02 & 4723-19-03

Mandatory Reporting Requirements: ORC 4723.34, OAC 4723-7-08

Nurse Licensure Compact: ORC 4723.11