

Alaska SHARP Program FAQs for SHARP-II

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)

1. Q. Do the clinician or employer site need to complete the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) when applying?

A: No. The MOA example is presented on the SHARP website for inspection purposes only. Each applicant should take the opportunity to read and carefully understand the MOA, as it contains important information about the program. Once the finalists are identified, then a completed MOA will be sent by DHSS to the Clinician, and then the site for their own entries on the MOA documents. It is then signed and dated, then sent back to DHSS. We review and sign, then it's done.

2. Q. What are the penalties if a practitioner defaults on his/her SHARP-II contract?

A: A Practitioner who fails to begin or complete his or her SHARP-II service obligation or otherwise breaches the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), shall be in default of the MOA and liable for damages. Damages for default shall be an amount equal to the total amount paid by the Alaska SHARP-II Program to, or on behalf of, the participant for any period of obligated service not served. Also, no further payments will be made to or on behalf of the participant. In addition to financial consequences, the following will also occur:

- 1) the Clinician will be recorded as having left the program with the status of Not In Good Standing;
- 2) the Clinician will be recorded as having defaulted on his/her SHARP-II service contract;
- 3) the signed MOA allows the SHARP-II program to report this contractual default status to future potential employer(s) and other support-for-service program(s) (e.g. to NHSC, HIS, and others); and
- 4) upon default the Clinician will not be allowed to reapply to the SHARP program or subsequent State of Alaska support-for-service opportunities. (MOA pg. 11, Section VI, Item D)

3. Q. Is it possible, part way through my three-year SHARP-II obligation, to transfer to a different position within my employer organization or am I obligated to remain at the same position for the entire three years?

A: Approved transfer to an eligible site and position within your agency could be a possibility. The requirement is specifically that you conclude a signed MOA Amendment with your site and us.

4. Q. Is there a specific deadline for a SHARP-II clinician to begin working on site after signing the contract (MOA)? What if there are delays due to licensing or other concerns?

A: The SHARP-II Advisory Body has not determined a cut-off date, so there is some uncertainty as to the answer to this question. The Body is at liberty to assign a cut-off date at any time. The main point of the program is to get support to clinicians who are ready to work, and in general delays should be avoided. If you were selected, there is a final step for all candidates that includes negotiating and codifying the start date (effective date), but that comes later, after the clinician is selected. In general, the sooner the better for a start date following the signed MOA.

5. Q. My facility is reconsidering submitting a site application. Is it a three-year commitment from both parties (the hospital and myself)?

A: Yes, the SHARP-II service contract is for three years. That is, for 36 months from date that contract becomes fully executed, and service credit starts. The contract (aka Memorandum of Agreement, or MOA) is a three-way agreement, between the program SHARP/DHSS, the clinician, and the healthcare site (employer).

6. Q. How can I get a hold of a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Quarterly work report to see what they require?

A: This link leads to the Quarterly Clinician Work Reports page, which also contains a link to the MOA.

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/HealthPlanning/Pages/sharp/report.aspx>

7. Q. On Page 10, Section III of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), who determines the Total MOA amount paid.

A: The Department of Health & Social Services fills in all the information that is related to the state's offer. That state-completed document is then extended to the clinician, who reviews and signs it in presence of a Notary. The clinician then takes that document to the practice site representative for signature. The MOA is then returned to the SHARP office.