

# NEBRASKA LICENSEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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## *The Nebraska Licensee Assistance Program Alcohol/Drug Assessment Process*

Licensed, certified or registered health care professionals are referred to the Nebraska Licensee Assistance Program (NE LAP) by a variety of sources: a self-initiated contact, an employer, a family member, an attorney, a treatment provider, and the State of Nebraska Licensure or Investigations Unit.

The NE LAP assessment process begins when the professional contacts the NE LAP and requests a NE LAP alcohol/drug assessment. Based upon the information provided by the professional, the NE LAP determines what type of alcohol/drug assessment will be conducted. The type of assessment generally depends on the professional's alcohol/drug use and treatment history. The professional who has never completed an alcohol/drug assessment before would be provided a comprehensive, diagnostic alcohol/drug assessment. Professionals who have completed a prior alcohol/drug assessment and a treatment program, are provided an updated alcohol/drug assessment or a recovery assessment. In some cases, treatment has already been completed and case management programs are set up for the professionals to help ensure their continued sobriety and recovery.

At the initial, in-person NE LAP session, the professional completes a clinical interview and authorizations to release information that allow the NE LAP to communicate with others involved in the case. The NE LAP also has the professional complete pertinent alcohol/drug screening tests during the initial session. Once the initial session has been completed, the NE LAP obtains collateral information from those who have knowledge of, or information on, the professional's use of alcohol and drugs. This information assists the NE LAP in making an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment or case management recommendations. This collateral information is usually obtained from an employer, family members, colleagues, co-workers, spouses or treatment providers who know the professional well and can provide helpful information about the professional's use of alcohol or drugs.

After all the information about the health care professional's use of alcohol and drugs has been collected, the information is evaluated to determine if there is a substance use disorder. Recommendations for substance use education, counseling or treatment are based on the diagnosis, or case management situation, and are conveyed to the professional. If treatment recommendations are been made, the professional is provided information on qualified treatment providers to choose from to contact for the completion of the treatment recommendations.

The NE LAP monitors the professional's treatment activities and progress until the completion of the treatment recommendations. Per Nebraska state law, the NE LAP must report a professional's non-compliance with the NE LAP treatment requirements to the Department of Public Health should that occur.

In some cases, the health care professional's use of alcohol and drugs is under investigation by the Nebraska DHHS Division of Public Health's Investigations Unit and the professional is awaiting the State's action in his/her case. The NE LAP continues to monitor the professional's compliance with the NE LAP treatment recommendations until the State reaches a decision. If the professional's license is placed on probation, monitoring of the professional's fulfillment of the State's probation requirements is done by a State Compliance Monitor and the case is closed at the NE LAP. If the professional's license is suspended or revoked, the professional is no longer eligible for NE LAP services at that time.

Please contact the NE LAP if you would like more information on the NE LAP alcohol/drug assessment process.

*If you are a licensed health or health-related service professional wanting more information about alcohol/drug abuse or addiction, please contact the NE LAP at (800) 851-2336 or (402)354-8055 or visit our web site at [www.lapne.org](http://www.lapne.org). If you would like to consult with the NE LAP, or schedule an assessment or an educational presentation, please ask for Judi Leibrock, NE LAP Coordinator or Michelle Hruska, NE LAP Counselor.*