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## ***Oregon's impaired health professionals' monitoring program launches July 1***

In 2009, Oregon legislators passed House Bill 2345 requiring the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish an impaired health professionals' monitoring program. The program's purpose is to protect the public from impaired health professionals by establishing a consolidated, statewide compliance monitoring and reporting service for licensees of participating Oregon health licensing boards. In addition, the program helps professionals achieve their health and safety goals in order to remain productive members of their professions.

An impaired health professional is a person who is licensed, certified by or registered with a health licensing board and who is unable to practice with professional skill and safety due to a substance use disorder, a mental health disorder or both types of disorders.

Oregon's Department of Human Services (DHS) has contracted with Reliant Behavioral Health to establish the program, which is called the Health Professionals' Services Program (HPSP). The HPSP began serving professionals July 1, 2010.

"The HPSP will provide a variety of services for licensees including case management, weekly compliance reports and toxicology testing," said Darcy Edwards, Health Professionals' Services Program manager. "We have a great responsibility to the public and we are committed to providing this very important service."

Currently, four Oregon boards are participating in the HPSP: Board of Dentistry, Board of Nursing, Board of Pharmacy and the Medical Board. A board can refer a person to the HPSP, or a person can self-refer. When a board refers a person, the HPSP will work with the board to ensure the person is monitored in accordance with his or her board agreement. When a person self-refers, the HPSP will keep the person's enrollment confidential as long as the person is in compliance with his or her monitoring agreement.

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