



*WVMPHP can help you  
or someone you love.*

Early detection, intervention & evaluation offer the best opportunity for success, thereby preventing any interference with the safe practice of medicine.

### **We Provide:**

- Confidential Consultation
- Assistance & Guidance
- Interventions
- Assessments & Referrals
- Recovery Monitoring
- Case management
- Education/Prevention Workshops and Presentations
- Consultations for WV Hospitals, Medical Staffs & organizations
- Support for Families
- Documentation of compliance with treatment provider recommendations

### **We Serve:**

- Physicians
- Medical Students / Residents
- Podiatrists
- Physician Assistants
- Physician Assistant Students
- Family members & colleagues
- Public



## **WVMPHP Mission Statement**

To protect healthcare consumers through seeking the early identification and rehabilitation of physicians, surgeons and other healthcare professionals with potentially impairing health concerns including abuse of mood altering drugs including alcohol, mental illness or physical illness affecting competency so that physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare professionals so afflicted may be treated, monitored and returned to the safe practice of their profession to the benefit of the healthcare profession and the patients we serve.



*West Virginia*  
**Medical Professionals  
Health Program**

*For confidential information and  
treatment options, contact:*

West Virginia Medical  
Professionals Health Program

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*West Virginia*  
**Medical Professionals  
Health Program**

*Improving the health of West Virginians  
through promoting the well-being of  
West Virginia physicians, podiatrists,  
physician assistants and other licensed  
healthcare professionals.*



The confidential program for licensees of  
the West Virginia Medical and Osteopathic  
Boards of licensure with substance use  
and/or mental health disorders.

**Dedicated to Healthcare Professionals.  
Committed to Patients.**

Many people believe health professionals are immune to addiction & mental illness by virtue of their intelligence, education and dedication to helping others. In fact, health professionals develop substance use disorders (SUDS) at a rate equal to or in excess of the general population rate of 10-15% lifetime incidence. Depression is also as common in health professionals as in the general population with a lifetime prevalence of almost 16%. Suicide is found in higher rates for physicians at a 40% increase in male physicians and 2 times more common in female physicians. Physical illness has a 10% lifetime incidence.

Perhaps more alarming are the barriers health professionals face in accessing treatment for addiction and/or mental health problems. The medical culture does not train health professionals to seek help or admit vulnerabilities. Fears of stigma, discrimination, loss of confidentiality, disciplinary action, licensing problems and career damage all result in health professionals seeking treatment at lower rates than the general population.

\* see Illness versus Impairment: [http://www.fsphp.org/illness\\_vs\\_impairment.pdf](http://www.fsphp.org/illness_vs_impairment.pdf)

\* see ASAM Physician Health Policies: <http://www.asam.org/advocacy/find-a-policy-statement/in-Category/Category/policy-statements/licensed-professionals-with-addictive-illness>

## Helping Health Practitioners Heal

The West Virginia Medical Professionals Health Program (WVMPHP) is a physician-directed, non-profit organization founded by organized medicine in West Virginia to reach out to troubled colleagues. The WVMPHP is a confidential resource, to the maximum extent provided by law, for any physician, podiatrist or physician assistant and their spouses, domestic partners, families, employers, and colleagues who have concerns that a practitioner might be suffering illness and at risk for potential impairment.

The WVMPHP helps identify, refer for evaluation and/or treatment, monitor the recovery and endorse the well-being of healthcare practitioners who have a mental or addictive illness, which could potentially affect their

Difficulty in recognition, acknowledging and accepting addiction or mental illness and the need for help may lead to health professionals sacrificing all other areas of their lives to conserve their professional identity and ability to practice.

As other areas of their lives deteriorate, the workplace is usually the last arena impacted. Much like diabetes, which is potentially impairing to the kidneys, mental illness and addiction are potentially impairing. Illness predates impairment often by a period of years. Yet, once identified and adequately treated, addiction and mental illness do not impair the professional's competence and need not impact the professional's credibility or continued ability to practice medicine. Early identification, intervention, diagnosis and treatment may be career and life saving. Another benefit of treatment is health professionals are better able to identify and treat addiction and mental illness in their own patients.

ability to practice with reasonable skill and safety. Some examples of these conditions are substance abuse or dependence (including alcohol), depressive disorder, bipolar mood disorder and anxiety disorders.

The confidentiality of the WVMPHP clients is protected to the maximum extent provided by existing State and Federal law.

The WVMPHP is dedicated to helping practitioners heal and, in so doing, to enhance the safety of those practitioners' patients.

## Treatment Works

WVMPHP supports the right of healthcare professionals to continue practicing when there is documentation their substance use disorder and/or mental illness is in remission.

For healthcare professionals entering intensive evaluation and/or treatment and participating in an extended comprehensive continuing care and monitoring program, the success rates for long term recovery are excellent. WVMPHP documentation provides confidence that reasonable measures have been taken to ensure a participant's wellness without ongoing impairment. Evidence of recovery is obtained through behavioral observations, evidence of healthy choices, and active participation in recovery activities. Objective documentation of abstinence is gained through drug/alcohol testing. Areas in which such documentation is appropriate include workplace reintegration, professional credentialing or licensure, malpractice insurance coverage, and utilizing and maintaining insurance benefits.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

Maintaining participant confidentiality is an integral element of the WVMPHP. The WVMPHP operates under very strict guidelines pertaining to confidentiality. The WVMPHP does not (with rare exceptions regarding non-compliance or public risk) disclose the identity or information about any current or former participant without a written release of information.

