

February 7, 2023

Dear Health Ethics Boards of Alberta:

Subject:

I am writing to inform you about new requirements for the provision of psychedelic drugs in Alberta.

On October 4, 2022, Alberta's government announced amendments to the [Mental Health Services Protection Regulation](#) (Regulation) under the [Mental Health Services Protection Act](#) (Act). The amendments introduced new requirements for psychedelic drug treatment services, which are services to treat a psychiatric disorder using psychedelic drugs. Please see the [Psychedelic Assisted Therapy Fact Sheet](#) for information about the most important changes brought about by the Regulation.

Starting January 16, 2023, with certain exceptions, all providers psychedelic drug treatment services in Alberta must apply for and hold a license under the Act. Also on January 16, 2023, the Government of Alberta published the [Psychedelic Drug Treatment Services Standards](#) (Standards). The Standards provide minimum service and administrative requirements that a licensed psychedelic drug treatment service provider must comply with.

The Regulation exempts service providers from the requirement to obtain a licence under the Act if they offer or provide psychedelic drug treatment services in the context of an approved clinical research trial. The approved clinical trial must be in accordance with the conditions imposed by the relevant research ethics board, and no costs, charges or expenses must be imposed on any patient participant for this exemption to apply.

Although exempted from licensing requirements under the Act, service providers offering or providing psychedelic drug treatment services in the context of an approved clinical research trial are bound by service and administrative requirements under the Act, Regulations and Standards. Section 47 of the MHSPR details required reporting specifically in the context of an approved clinical research trial. Please see the embedded instruments for details on the various requirements. The compliance and monitoring team are working on a reporting tool for service provider ease and will share it with you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the compliance and monitoring team at AMH.CAM@gov.ab.ca.

Yours truly,



Kevin Wipf
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