

Recovery residences referral mandate frequently asked questions

Beginning January 1, 2023, a licensed or certified service provider may not refer a client who is appropriate for housing in a recovery residence, to support the client's recovery from a substance use disorder, to a recovery residence that is not included in the registry of approved recovery residences maintained by Health Care Authority ([RCW 41.05.760](#)).

This section does not otherwise limit the discharge or referral options available for a person in recovery from a substance use disorder to any other appropriate placements or services.

Who is identified as a licensed or certified provider?

A licensed or certified provider is a person or organization licensed or certified by the Department of Health (DOH) to provide services.

Why do I have to refer to only homes on the registry?

Recognizing the potential for fraudulent and unethical recovery housing operators, this act is designed to address the quality of recovery residences in Washington. The Health Care Authority (HCA) wants people to move into safe, established homes that will be accountable to the standards of the accreditation process.

How will I know what houses are on the registry?

HCA's registry can be found on the [Recovery Residencies webpage](#).

Are the homes listed on the Washington Alliance for Quality Recovery Residences (WAQRR) registry the same as the homes listed on HCA registry?

No. The WAQRR registry contains all the homes that have been accredited through by WAQRR. Some of those homes may not meet HCA's standards and therefore not listed on the HCA registry. The referral mandate specifies the referral must be made to an approved recovery residence on the registry maintained by HCA.

What if the participant does not want to go to a referred house?

This is just a referral and not a placement. The participant has the right to choose where they want to live, even if it is not on the HCA registry.

What if there is not a Recovery Residences listed on the HCA registry in my area?

This section does not otherwise limit the discharge or referral options available to the individual or any other appropriate placements or services. If a referral is not made, the provider needs to document why the referral could not be made.

What is meant by "who is appropriate"?

"Appropriate" means an individual in recovery from substance use disorder that meets the requirements of the residence.

What if they are not "appropriate"?

The referral would not have to be made.

How do I get on HCA's registry?

HCA contracts with WAQRR (Washington Alliance for Quality Recovery Residences) for technical assistance and guidance on the accreditation process. You can find more information on the accreditation process on the [WAQRR website](#).

What is the difference between a Recovery House and a Recovery Residence?

A Recovery Residence is a safe, healthy, abstinence-based, family-like living environment that supports individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). A Recovery House is a licensed residential treatment facility that requires both a residential treatment license and a BHA (Behavioral Health Agency) license and includes extensive oversight by DOH. You can read more about recovery residences on the [Recovery Residences webpage](#).

Are all the recovery residences on HCA's registry required to accept people taking medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)?

Yes, all the recovery residences listed on HCA's registry must allow residents to use prescribed medication for physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder, prescribed to them and as taken as directed by a licensed prescriber.

Will my clients receive subsidies if they enter a home on the registry?

A referral does not guarantee subsidies. Subsidies are dependent on resources in the community.

How will I document if a referral has been made?

Documentation can be made on the individual's treatment plan.