

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF NURSING
COMMITTEE ON IMPAIRED NURSES (COIN)**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**2201 Shannon Place SE
Washington, DC 20020**

Information on COIN

The “Nurses Rehabilitation Program Act of 2000” was passed establishing a Committee on Impaired Nurses (COIN) to supervise the operation of a rehabilitation program for nursing personnel licensed in the District of Columbia. The purpose of the Committee is to provide an alternative to the DC Board of Nursing’s disciplinary process for licensed nursing personnel who are impaired due to drug or alcohol dependence or mental illness. The Committee monitors the recovery of licensed nursing personnel and their practice to assure that they practice within acceptable standards of nursing care. All information about the participants in the program is confidential.

Admission to the program is voluntary (unless mandated to COIN by the Board of Nursing). Participants are generally in COIN for three to five years. Licensed nursing personnel may be referred to the Program through self-reports, formal complaints, and/or the DC Board of Nursing. Once a nurse is admitted to the COIN Program, the nurse and Committee enter into an agreement that outlines the conditions that must be met by the nurse. This agreement or contract is legally binding. Failure to adhere to the elements of the agreement will result in the participant being referred to the DC Board of Nursing for possible disciplinary action.

The monitoring of participants is done through monthly self-reports, supervisor reports, sponsor reports, health care provider reports, and random drug screens. COIN meets with participants monthly – quarterly. The COIN Program uses Affinity/Spectrum Compliance to manage the drug testing component. When the participant signs the Agreement that follows, instructions will be sent to the participant to set up the Affinity account. Failure to comply with the drug testing element of the program is considered an act of non-compliance and may result in the participant being referred to the DC Board of Nursing. The participant is responsible for all expenses and fees associated with the COIN Program, including drug screens.

For referrals or additional information please email us at: dc.coin@dc.gov