

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### PRESS RELEASE

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Surinder Kad M.D., FACP, MPH, MBA, FAAIM, of Jackson Purchase Medical Center, 1029 Medical Center Circle Suite 200, Mayfield, KY 42066, recently became certified as a Medical Review Officer. This certification meets the federal requirements, effective August 1, 2001, that Medical Review Officers for federally regulated drug testing programs must complete 12 hours of training and pass a nationally recognized exam.

The **American Association of Medical Review Officers, Inc. (AAMRO)**, created in 1991, is a non-profit medical society dedicated to establishing national standards and certification of medical practitioners and other professionals in the field of drug and alcohol testing. This certification process has involved the establishment of standard practices and procedures, and training programs and administration of certification examinations.

Certification is intended to ensure the public's receipt of quality services, and the maintenance of ethical conduct by competent professionals involved in drug and alcohol testing.

#### **The Need for MRO Certification Requirements**

The MRO plays a critical role in drug testing programs in assessing whether an alternate medical explanation can account for a positive drug test result. Additional important functions of the MRO are to provide for the privacy and confidentiality of the employee's personal medical history during the course of reviewing drug test results. More and more programs are relying on the MRO to review quality control and quality assurance aspects of the testing and requesting MRO involvement in assessment and monitoring of treatment progress.

The Medical Review Officer is given the critical task of determining the validity of drug test results. For a drug program to work properly, it is essential for an MRO to have a working understanding of the legal and technical issues involved. Medical Review Officers make the final determination as to the accuracy of a drug test. Their decision is as critical as the laboratory findings.

The Medical Review Officer is an integral part of federally mandated drug testing programs. The MRO plays a fundamental role in fulfilling the constitutional requirements of the Fourth Amendment for government mandated drug testing. The MRO balances the protected rights of the tested individual and the compelling concerns for health and safety in the workplace and for drug deterrence. It is an area of practice which involves physicians with diverse backgrounds. **AAMRO** is independent of existing medical membership groups and is designed to provide training and certification for physicians in different specialties.

The type of standards and certification **AAMRO** has developed has been encouraged, and is supported, by federal agencies that are significantly involved in the procedural, policy, and administrative aspects of drug and alcohol testing, including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS/SAMHSA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).