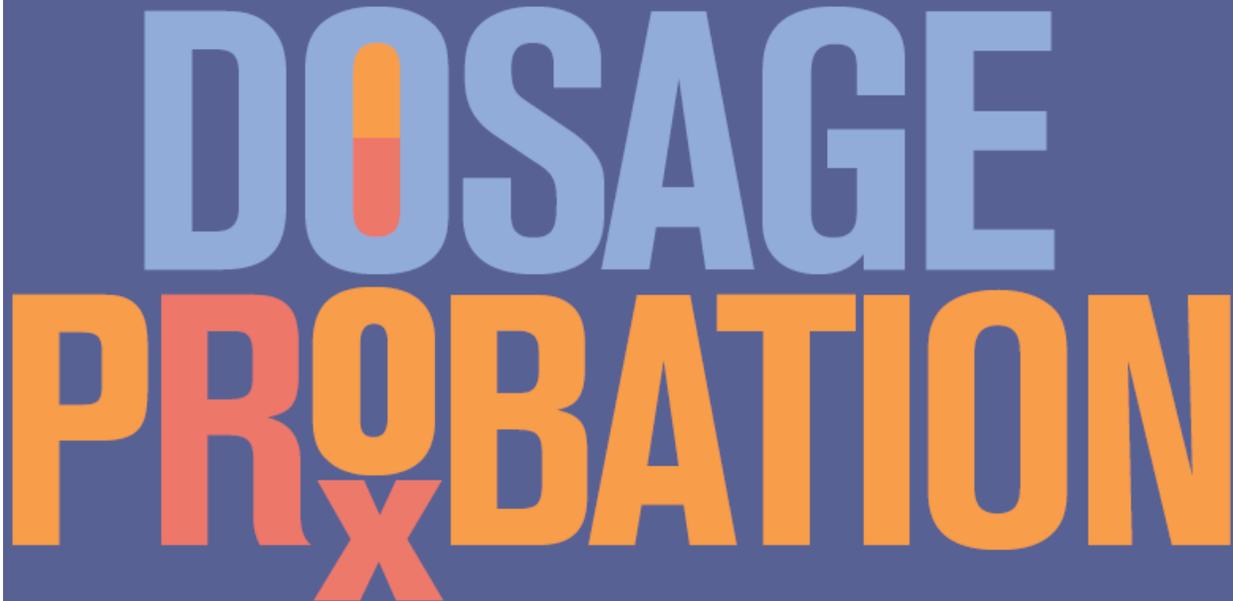


## Frequently Asked Questions About:



### **1. What is Dosage Probation?**

Dosage Probation is a model of offender supervision that aims to link the duration of probation supervision to the optimal amount of intervention an offender needs in order to reduce risk of re-offense. The proposed dosage model of probation suggests that the length of supervision should be determined by the number of hours of intervention necessary to reduce risk, rather than an arbitrarily (or customarily) established amount of time (e.g., 3 years, 5 years).

### **2. How is Dosage Probation different from traditional probation?**

While philosophically similar, dosage probation differs practically from traditional probation in several ways. To begin, the agents who are equipped to supervise dosage cases have participated in advanced training aimed at enhancing their ability to engage offenders in behavioral change. They have received in depth guidance in the core correctional practices, including such topics as skill building and practice, case planning, identifying risk factors, accurately determining and recording dosage hours and effectively structuring office visits. These agents further have caseloads and workloads that are “right-sized” so that they have sufficient time to meaningfully engage offenders face to face. Lastly, the supervisors of the agents involved in the dosage program have and continue to receive guidance and oversight in coaching and auditing, so as to ensure that standards are being maintained and interventions are being delivered to fidelity.

### **3. Who is eligible for Dosage Probation?**

There are two primary criteria for participation: (1) the defendant must score at least 4 on the LSI-R SV; and (2) at sentencing, the court must impose probation and approve early

termination if the defendant satisfies all the conditions of probation and cooperates with the program.

*Risk assessment:* Research suggests that those who are most likely to benefit from the interventions and services provided under the dosage model are those who are assessed as medium/high risk to reoffend. Consequently, all defendants are being assessed using a standard risk assessment tool to determine their risk of reoffending. A defendant will be considered for participation in the project if he or she scores at least 4 on a LSI-R SV assessment and at least medium or higher on the COMPAS assessment. Furthermore, if the offender scores only a 4 or 5, further assessment using a more detailed risk instrument may be required.

*Sentencing criteria:* In addition to the defendant having a risk score that places them in either a medium or high risk to reoffend, the court must agree at the sentencing hearing to permit the defendant to participate in the program. In other words, the court must impose a probationary sentence and must order as a condition of probation that probation may terminate if the defendant satisfies all the conditions of probation and cooperates with the dosage probation program.

#### **4. May any defendant participate, or are some ineligible?**

No, not all defendants are eligible to participate. To be eligible, a defendant must be convicted of a felony.

In addition, defendants who convicted of any of the following are not eligible to participate:

- Homicide
- Sexually motivated offenses (whether currently or in the past)
- Domestic Violence

In addition, the program is not equipped for defendants with a major mental illness. Nor is the program able at this time to accommodate defendants who are not fluent in English.

#### **5. If a defendant completes the prescribed dosage hours, based on their risk and needs profile, will their probationary term end early?**

Yes. If a participant completes the proscribed dosage hours, and all of the conditions of probation before the term of probation ends, probation will terminate early.

Participants should keep in mind that we expect participants will need at least 12-18 months to complete the treatment that is provided as a part of the program. The participant also must complete all the other conditions of probation that may be imposed by the court, for example the payment of court obligations and restitution.

#### **6. May a defendant participate if the court imposes jail time as a condition of probation?**

Yes. Participants should be aware, however, that serving condition time will extend the amount of time needed to complete the conditions of probation and achieve the prescribed dosage hours and therefore postpone early termination.

**7. Can a defendant enter into the dosage probation program if eligibility was not specified at the time sentence was pronounced?**

No, participation cannot begin midway through probation. It is important that the dosage probation agents commence rapport building, case planning and intervention practices as close to sentencing as possible. This is particularly central given many defendants will need to complete 200 to 300 dosage hours over the course of their community supervision term.

**8. If a defendant is deemed appropriate and eligible to participate in the program, can he or she be removed at a later date?**

No. The intervention techniques and behavioral modification strategies employed by the agents in the dosage probation program will continue to be applied even in instances where a defendant's motivation to change is not well developed. In these instances, the likeliest outcome is that the offender will not attain the prescribed dosage hours and will therefore not earn early discharge.

**9. When can defendants start being directed to the dosage probation program?**

The Department of Corrections has increased capacity to begin receiving immediate referrals.

**10. If a participant's probation is revoked, is he or she permitted to continue participating in the program while confined? Can participation resume once the participant is released to extended supervision?**

No. We are only able to work with those who are being supervised in the community as part of probation, not those in prison or those on extended supervision. While revoked offenders who go to prison and later are released back to the community may receive some of the same programming and interventions, Wisconsin law does not permit the Department of Corrections to petition the Court for an offender to be early discharged from a term of extended supervision.

**11. If a participant is required to serve condition time as a probation sanction, is he or she permitted to continue participating in the program after serving the condition time?**

Yes, however participants should be aware that serving condition time will extend the amount of time needed to complete the conditions of probation and therefore postpone early termination.

**12. May a defendant appeal a finding that he or she is ineligible to participate?**

No, there is no appeal process. However, it is our intent that defendants found ineligible will receive a complete explanation outlining the finding.

**13. How often will a participant have to meet with the agent?**

How often participants must meet with the agent will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Depending on what kind of treatment, training or programming a participant needs, given his or her unique personal traits and circumstances, a participant may be required to meet with an agent more often or less often than other participants or those who receive traditional supervision.

Participants should understand that the overall goal of a program like this is to reduce the likelihood that a defendant will commit another crime. Naturally, some participants will require more treatment, training and programming than others.

**14. To what office must participants report?**

Participants will report either to the Community Corrections office in the State Office Building (6<sup>th</sup> and Wells Streets) or on Port Washington Road (Capitol Drive and Port Washington Road).

**15. Are any other offices, perhaps one closer to a participant's home, participating in the program?**

No. Only selected agents have been trained to participate in this program. All of them work out of the State Office Building and Port Washington Road offices. Both of these offices are on bus routes. Participants will be provided with bus tickets, if needed.

**16. Is a participant ever allowed to request a different agent?**

The same rules that apply to any other probationer's request for a new agent will apply to requests made by participants in this program. If the decision is made to transfer supervision to an agent who is not trained and equipped with the additional capacities as the agents involved in the program, the participant no longer will be eligible to participate.

**17. Must participants attend mandatory court reviews as part of the program?**

No. Court reviews are not part of the program. However, if the sentencing judge for reasons of his or her own orders court reviews, the participant must cooperate.