

## HHS Announcement: Practice Guidelines for the Administration of Buprenorphine for Treating Opioid Use Disorder

### One step closer to normalizing addiction treatment: Improving access and easing regulatory barriers

On 4/28/2021 HHS officially updated practice guidelines regarding buprenorphine for opioid use disorder (OUD). These new practice guidelines decrease barriers to prescribing buprenorphine for OUD by exempting eligible providers from certain certification requirements related to training, counseling, and other ancillary services. The updated requirements are below:

To prescribe buprenorphine for OUD to 30 or fewer patients (at one time):

- Provider submits Notice of Intent (NOI) to SAMHSA
- Provider will need DEA number and state medical license number to complete NOI
- SAMHSA approves request and notifies DEA
- DEA issues X-waiver
- Attestation of training, counseling, and ancillary services is NOT required

To prescribe to more than 30 patients (at one time), the prior requirements remain:

- Complete 8-hour (physician) or 24-hour (NP/PA) training
- Submit NOI, get approval, and receive X-waiver via process listed above
- Provide or refer for counseling and ancillary services

#### Notice of Intent Options

- New buprenorphine provider without training with intent to treat up to 30 patients
- New buprenorphine provider with training and intent to treat up to 100 patients
- Buprenorphine provider with intent to increase limit to 275 patients
- Buprenorphine provider with limit of 275 patients submitting required yearly report

Providers should use [this link](#) to submit their Notice of Intent.

#### Implications

This update helps to align prescribing buprenorphine for OUD with prescribing buprenorphine for pain or prescribing any other medication.

Despite training no longer being a requirement to treat up to 30 patients with buprenorphine for OUD, providers engage in continual learning as part of their license/certification. Many opportunities to learn about buprenorphine for OUD exist.

#### Learning options for buprenorphine for OUD include the following:

- [HHS Buprenorphine Quick Start Guide](#)
- [Medication Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) Buprenorphine Induction and Maintenance: 5-minute video](#)
- [8-hour PCSS training for physicians](#)
- 24-hour training for nonphysician prescribers: [Nurses](#) and [Physician Assistants](#)