

Process to Obtain Buprenorphine Waiver on DEA License

1. Submit the online Buprenorphine Waiver Notification form. You must submit this form if you plan on prescribing buprenorphine. Submit this form at <http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov/forms/select-practitioner-type.php>
2. You must ALSO send your training certificates electronically, via email to infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov OR via fax to 301-576-5237.
3. Allow 45 days for CSAT to review your waiver notification form. Note that we send notification of your completion of the training to them within around a week after your completion to confirm your completion.
4. Once the application process is complete and the application is approved, SAMHSA will email a letter that confirms the waiver and includes the provider's prescribing identification number. If it has been more than 45 days since a provider has submitted an application or if a provider submitted an application and did not receive an acknowledgement of receipt, contact CSAT's Buprenorphine Information Center at 866-BUP-CSAT (866-287-2728) or send CSAT an email: infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov

Physicians: After your waiver notification has been reviewed, you will receive a prescribing identification number ("X" number) from the DEA via email. You will need to write this number on all buprenorphine prescriptions that you write. Your regular DEA number will not change.

Training (8 hours required)

The training from ASAM is excellent. It is strictly online and the certificate is available as soon as course is complete. The training is free to residents and ASAM member. Otherwise, it costs \$149.

<https://elearning.asam.org/products/treatment-of-opioid-use-disorder-waiver-qualifying-8-hours-online>

Other Free links

<https://pcssmat.org/education-training/mat-waiver-training/>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/training-resources/buprenorphine-physician-training>

Qualify for a Physician Waiver [Qualifying for Waiver](#)

Under the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000), qualified physicians may apply for waivers to treat opioid dependency with approved buprenorphine products in any settings in which they are qualified to practice, including an office, community hospital, health department, or correctional facility. A “qualifying physician” is specifically defined in DATA 2000 as one who is:

1. Licensed under state law (excluding physician assistants or nurse practitioners)
2. Registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to dispense controlled substances
3. Required to treat no more than 30 patients at a time within the first year
4. Qualified by training and/or certification
5. Also, in order to maintain a waiver, a physician must be capable of referring patients to counseling and other services.

Physician Criteria that SAMHSA Verifies

To qualify for a waiver, a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) must meet any one or more of the following criteria and provide supporting documentation for all that apply:

1. Hold a subspecialty board certification in addiction psychiatry from the American Board of Medical Specialties
2. Hold an addiction certification from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)
3. Hold a subspecialty board certification in addiction medicine from the American Osteopathic Association
4. Have completed required training for the treatment and management of patients with opioid use disorders. This involves not less than eight hours of training through classroom situations, seminars at professional society meetings, electronic communications, or training otherwise provided by ASAM and other organizations. Learn more about the required buprenorphine training for physicians.
5. Have participated as an investigator in one or more clinical trials leading to the approval of a narcotic medication in Schedule III, IV, or V for maintenance or detoxification treatment. The physician’s participation should be confirmed in a statement by the sponsor of the approved medication to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Find drug scheduling definitions from the DEA for scheduled medications.
6. Have other training or experience that the state medical licensing board (of the state in which the physician will provide maintenance or detoxification treatment) considers a demonstration of the physician’s ability to treat and manage patients with opioid dependency.
7. Have completed other training or experience that HHS considers a demonstration of the physician’s ability to treat and manage patients with an opioid dependency. The criteria of HHS for this training or experience will be established by regulation.

DEA Identification and Registration Numbers

Once SAMHSA verifies that the background of a physician is correct and valid, DEA assigns the qualified physician a special identification number. DEA regulations require this identification number and the physician's regular DEA registration number on all buprenorphine prescriptions for opioid dependence treatment. Under DATA 2000, individual physicians may have a maximum of 30 patients in opioid dependence treatment at a time for the first year. One year after the initial notification is submitted, the physician may submit a second notification of the need and intent to treat up to 100 patients.

Physicians Eligible for a Physician Waiver

- Physicians in Correctional Facilities

Medical personnel in correctional facilities serving incarcerated patients may obtain a Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) waiver to provide opioid dependency treatment. State laws and policies vary considerably regarding methadone treatment within correctional facilities. It is assumed that this same variation will occur with the use of buprenorphine in this setting. Medical personnel in correctional facilities must also adhere to DATA 2000's patient limit requirements.

- Physicians in the Federal Government

Physicians employed by an agency of the federal government are also eligible for DATA 2000 waivers. Physicians must have a valid, individually assigned DEA registration number, in addition to a license to practice medicine, verifiable credentials, and training experience.

A physician who is directly employed by the federal government may obtain a DEA number free of charge, without being licensed in the state where the federal facility is located. The physician must have a valid state license in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

To receive a DEA number, a physician must complete a DEA registration application that includes the physician's official business address and the name and phone number of the certifying official who can verify the physicians' eligibility for this program. This DEA registration number may only be used for practice within the federal government installation and may not be used for practice outside this setting. Physicians, who are contractors and not federal government employees, are ineligible to apply.

- Physicians in Residency Training Programs

The DATA 2000 legislation does not specify that a physician in a residency training program who otherwise meets the qualifications for a waiver is ineligible to apply for and obtain a waiver. Therefore, SAMHSA has granted waivers to physicians in residency training who have unrestricted licenses and the appropriate DEA registration. Individual states may have laws with more restrictive rules regarding who may prescribe or dispense Schedule III narcotic drugs for detoxification or maintenance treatment.

Completing the Waiver Notification Form [Completing the Waiver Form](#)

In order to complete the form, physicians can do the following:

- Complete the Online Request for New Waiver
- Complete the Online Request for Patient Limit Increase

The form contains all the data items necessary to expedite the timely processing of waiver notifications. The notification of intent must contain information on the physician's qualifying credentials and additional certifications, including their capacity to refer patients for appropriate counseling and other services. It must also confirm that the physician will not have more than 30 patients at any one time for the first year, regardless of the number of practice locations. Physicians also must fax their training certificate after completing the waiver form to show that they have completed the required training to prescribe and dispense buprenorphine.

One year after the physician submits the initial notification, the physician can submit a second notification stating the need and intent to treat up to 100 patients. Learn how to apply to increase patient limits.

SAMHSA reviews applications within 45 days of receipt. Once the application process is complete and the application is approved, SAMHSA will email a letter that confirms the waiver and includes the physician's prescribing identification number. If it has been more than 45 days since a physician has submitted an application or if a physician submitted an application and did not receive an acknowledgement of receipt, contact CSAT's Buprenorphine Information Center at 866-BUP-CSAT (866-287-2728) or send an email to infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov (link sends e-mail).

Apply to Begin Treatment with Buprenorphine Immediately

To receive permission to provide treatment while a notification is under review, check the box "New Notification, with the intent to immediately facilitate treatment of an individual (one) patient" on the notification form. Checking the "immediate" box is only one of three requirements a physician must meet in order to start a patient on treatment, and immediate treatment is limited to one patient per form submitted. Each form must have a different submission date. Other requirements the applicant must address, include:

Meeting "in good faith" the criteria for obtaining a waiver such as having a valid medical license, valid Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration, qualified, or completion of eight hours of qualifying training

Contacting CSAT's Buprenorphine Information Center at 866-BUP-CSAT (866-287-2728) to verify that the notification form has been received and to notify CSAT of the physician's intent to begin treating one patient

Since the physician will not have a unique identifying number, pharmacists may question prescriptions received under this provision. Pharmacists may contact SAMHSA, if additional information is needed, at 866-BUP-CSAT (866-287-2728) or by sending an email to infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov (link sends e-mail).

Qualify for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) Waiver

NA and PA Waiver Process

- CARA Act

On July 22, 2016, President Obama signed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) into law as Public Law 114-198. One of CARA's important provisions expands access to substance use treatment services and overdose reversal medications—including the full spectrum of services from prevention to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and recovery support—by extending the privilege of prescribing buprenorphine in office-based settings to qualifying nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) until Oct. 1, 2021.

- Proposed Learning Objectives

CARA requires that NPs and PAs complete 24 hours of training to be eligible for a prescribing waiver. SAMHSA has created a list of recommended learning objectives for the trainings. While we cannot require that the organizations listed in the CARA Act use these learning objectives, we are sharing them with the stakeholders. Access the Proposed Learning Objectives for the NP and PA Waiver Training – 2017 (PDF | 196 KB).

- Sign Up for Courses

NPs and PAs are required to obtain no fewer than 24 hours of initial training addressing each of the topics in 21 USC 823(g)(2)(G)(ii)(IV) provided by one of the following organizations: The American Society of Addiction Medicine, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Association, American Nurses Credentialing Center, American Psychiatric Association, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Academy of Physician Assistants, or any other organization that the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines is appropriate.

NPs and PAs may take both the eight-hour DATA-waiver course for treatment of opioid use disorder, designed by national experts, that physicians currently take, and the additional 16 hours course offered for free by SAMHSA through the Providers' Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Treatment (PCSS-MAT) (link is external).

NPs and PAs who have completed the required training and seek to become DATA-waiver for up to 30 patients will be able to apply to do so beginning in early 2017. For more information on the upcoming launch of the application and SAMHSA-sponsored training opportunities, sign up (link is external) for the Buprenorphine Waiver Management email list.

- Completing the Waiver NOI Form

NPs and PAs who have completed the 24 hours of required training may seek to obtain a DATA 2000 waiver for up to 30 patients by completing the Waiver Notification Form. Effective February 27, 2017, SAMHSA will only accept electronic submissions of the NOI.

NPs and PAs may send copies of their training certificates to infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov (link sends e-mail) or faxed them to 301-576-5237. These waiver applications are forwarded to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which will assign the NP or PA a special identification number. DEA regulations require this number to be included on all buprenorphine prescriptions for opioid dependency treatment, along with the NP's or PA's regular DEA registration number.

SAMHSA shall review waiver applications within 45 days of receipt. If approved, NPs and PAs will receive a letter via email that confirms their waiver and includes their prescribing identification number.