



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

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 can be found at <https://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov/forms/select-practitioner-type.php>

Use [this link](#) for all X-waiver Notices of Intent, regardless of the intent.

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