



You Can Now Prescribe Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, eliminated the requirement for providers to obtain a waiver from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), referred to as the “X-waiver,” to prescribe buprenorphine for OUD treatment, outside a federally regulated Opioid Treatment Program (OTP). The elimination of the X-waiver applies to all prescribers, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

Why it Matters:

- In 2022, among the 4% (approximately 9 million people) of U.S. adults who needed OUD treatment only **25% (approximately 2 million people)** received recommended medications (Dowell, et al. 2022)
- **Buprenorphine**, a Schedule III medication approved by the FDA, **significantly reduces mortality** and can be prescribed in office-based settings

Who is Eligible:

- All licensed practitioners with DEA registration for Schedule III, where state law allows
- When renewing or applying for a new DEA Registration, practitioners must attest to completing one of the following:
 - At least 8 hours of training on opioid/substance use disorders, or
 - Holding a current board certification in addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry, or
 - Graduating within the last five years from a relevant medical program, advanced practice nursing, or physician assistant school in the United State that included opioid/substance use disorder training

MATE Act Education and Resources:

- Practitioners can satisfy the training requirement through various modalities (e.g. cumulative or past relevant training sessions, [DATA-Waived trainings](#)) within a variety of settings including traditional classroom, interactive seminars, or virtual sessions
- The one-time, 8-hour training can be found here: [Providers Clinical Support System-Medications for Opioid Use Disorders \(PCSS-MOUD\)](#)
- [Behavioral Health Identification, Treatment and Referral in Primary Care-Part Two: Substance-Use Disorders in Primary Care | Optum Health Education](#)
- [American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry \(AAAP\) Podcast](#)
- [SAMHSA.gov/Buprenorphine Quick Start Guide](#)
- [Opioid Use Disorder QRG](#)

References: Dowell D, Brown S, Gyawali S, et al. Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: Population Estimates — United States, 2022. MMWR MorbMortal Wkly Rep 2024;73:567–574. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7325a1>