



Prescribing of Buprenorphine to Treat Opioid Addiction Authorization Expanded to Qualified Certified Nurse Practitioners

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced that beginning in early 2017 **Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNPs)** can obtain training and apply to become DATA-waiver practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine to treat opioid addiction, also known as medication-assisted treatment or MAT. DATA-waiver CNPs will be limited to **30 patients** for MAT treatment. CNPs must complete the 24 hours of required SAMHSA training. Previously, only physicians could obtain the DATA-waiver. Physician assistants may also apply for the DATA-waiver.

To expedite the training, SAMHSA has made an eight-hour DATA-waiver course for MAT that physicians currently take available for CNPs. The course is offered free by SAMHSA through the *Providers' Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Treatment* (PCSS-MAT). SAMHSA will be offering the additional 16 hours of training for free through the PCSS-MAT once the training has been developed.

http://pcssmat.org/calendar-of-events/list/?tribe_eventcategory=9

For more information on the waiver application and the SAMHSA-sponsored training, CNPs should sign up for the Buprenorphine Waiver Management email list.

https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001Xwf8qpvKKiyzz3UjedgyPI8uOoN58KenNVW7wO_XYLspaCvwH-LWer9iNkGiDv4zd9KP1XuFeDrghqR-ii0rXF2BYSq5yDO6m-mpF9UT8AU%3D

At its January 23, 2017, meeting, the Board of Nursing Committee on Prescriptive Governance revised the Formulary, enabling qualified CNPs, who obtain the SAMHSA training and a DATA-waiver, to prescribe buprenorphine for MAT. The CNP's collaborating physician must also have a DATA-waiver, as the prescriptive authority of the CNP cannot exceed that of the CNP's collaborating physician.

Please note that pursuant to SAMHSA regulations, the waiver is limited to CNPs. Clinical Nurse Specialists and Certified Nurse-Midwives are **not eligible** to obtain a DATA-waiver for MAT with buprenorphine.

The CNP who receives a DATA-waiver must engage in practice consistent with the CNP's formal graduate nursing education and national certification in accordance with Section 4723.43, ORC. In addition, the CNP must enter into a standard care arrangement with a physician who is "authorized to practice in this state and ..., practice in a specialty that is the same as or similar to the nurse's nursing specialty." Section 4723.431(A), ORC. Consistent with Rule 4723-8-02(D), OAC, the CNP, when prescribing buprenorphine for MAT, must follow the State Medical Board Administrative Rule 4731-11-12, OAC, *Office Based Opioid Treatment*, that governs the physician's practice. The link for this Rule is: <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4731-11-12v1>

If there are questions, please email practice@nursing.ohio.gov.