



**YOU CAN PREVENT
OVERDOSE
IN YOUR PATIENTS.**
Offer buprenorphine

For more information about buprenorphine
in Philadelphia, visit <https://dbhids.org/MAT>



Materials adapted with permission from the NYC Department of Health and Mental
Hygiene

**TREAT
ADDICTION.
SAVE
LIVES.**

**OFFER BUPRENORPHINE
TREATMENT.**

**Prescribing buprenorphine is easier
than you might think. Here's what
you need to know + free resources
to help you get started.**



WHAT IS BUPRENORPHINE?

Buprenorphine is a partial opioid agonist used to treat opioid use disorder. Buprenorphine is effective: it reduces drug use and death from opioids, keeps patients in treatment, and improves various health and social outcomes. Buprenorphine can be prescribed in your practice, just like other medications you prescribe for chronic health conditions. Offer buprenorphine to give your patients access to life-saving treatment they might not otherwise receive.



FAQ

Q: Who can prescribe buprenorphine?

A: Any physician, nurse practitioner (NP) or physician assistant (PA) after obtaining a waiver. Once waived, providers can treat up to 30 patients with buprenorphine. Additional training is required to treat more than 30 patients at a time.



Q: How do I obtain my waiver to prescribe buprenorphine?

A: Providers interested in prescribing buprenorphine must first submit a Notification of Intent (NOI) to SAMHSA. Instructions can be found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/become-buprenorphine-waivered-practitioner>

Q: How do I get trained to prescribe buprenorphine to more than 30 patients?

A: There are several options available to complete the required buprenorphine waiver training, including online (visit samhsa.gov and search for "buprenorphine training").



Q: I didn't learn about buprenorphine during my clinical training. Is it complicated?

A: Prescribing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder is like treating many other chronic conditions that you routinely see in primary care. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health can also match you with an experienced prescriber for clinical mentorship and provide technical assistance to prepare you and your office staff.

Q: I am not sure I want to treat people who use drugs in my practice.

A: Individuals with opioid use disorder are likely already part of your practice. There are tens of thousands of Philadelphians who are believed to have this disorder and most do not receive the effective treatment they need. Buprenorphine treatment can prevent overdose and improve your patients' lives



FROM PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS WHO PRESCRIBE BUPRENORPHINE:

"There are few areas of primary care where a week or two into treatment many patients report such dramatic changes in their lives."

"It's amazing to see patients' lives change in front of my own eyes. I've had several patients say things like they never dreamed they could go this long without using opioids."

"I have come to realize this is no different than the management of any chronic disease. It's ideally suited for the primary care relationship."

"It's empowering to have this tool and be able to truly help patients struggling with drug use."