

# YOU CAN PREVENT OVERDOSE IN YOUR PATIENTS. Offer buprenorphine

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



# 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.



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



#### 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.



#### **FAO**

#### Q: Who can prescribe buprenorphine?

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

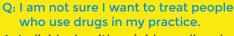


### Q: How do I obtain my waiver to prescribe buprenorphine?

- 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





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."