



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Dear Colleague:

In 2020, there were 1,214 drug overdose deaths in Philadelphia. We can prevent these deaths. As part of the city's opioid overdose prevention initiative, the Philadelphia Health Department works with health care providers and communities to expand access to buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder (OUD).

Buprenorphine decreases overdose deaths, reduces drug use, prevents relapse, and enables patients to reengage in employment, school and family relationships. Like other medications for chronic health conditions, buprenorphine can be integrated into primary care, dispensed from community pharmacies and help your patients lead healthier lives. Despite these benefits, not enough patients know about or use buprenorphine; many Philadelphians with OUD who could benefit from buprenorphine do not receive it. As a Philadelphia health care provider, you can change this by dispensing buprenorphine to your patients with OUD.

Make these changes to help improve the health of your patients and the city:

- Educate patients about buprenorphine and that it is one of the most effective treatments for OUD.
- Dispense buprenorphine to patients to decrease overdose risk and improve quality of life.
- Utilize the 24/7 clinical consultation line to have your questions about buprenorphine and other substance use issues answered by expert pharmacists, nurses and toxicologists.

This Buprenorphine Action Kit includes clinical tools and resources for you and educational materials for your patients. We encourage you to share it with your colleagues.

Thank you for your dedication to the health of Philadelphians and for your partnership in reversing this epidemic.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hom, MD, MPH

Medical Director, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction

Philadelphia Department of Public Health