



Department of
Public Health
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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

**TREAT
ADDICTION.
SAVE
LIVES.**

OFFER BUPRENORPHINE TREATMENT.

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

What should I do if a patient needs to fill a prescription for a quantity of buprenorphine product that is not the standard package size?

Buprenorphine/Naloxone films will maintain stability until the manufacturer's expiration date, even when the box is opened if the integrity of individual foil packaging is maintained. It is acceptable to maintain a partial package until the manufacturer's expiration date. Buprenorphine bulk packaged tablets may be kept in inventory up to 1 year of breaking the seal or the manufacturer's expiration date – whichever comes first.

What can I do if I have partial packages of buprenorphine products

Offer delivery/shipping services when appropriate to ensure completion of prescription and/or exhaustion of any existing supply. Check with your expired medications vendor to determine if credit is available for partial packages of expiring buprenorphine products.

Buprenorphine products must be dispensed with a Medication Guide. How can I obtain additional Medication Guides for dispensing subsequent fills of buprenorphine products?

Utilize the FDA Medication Guides Database (<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm?event=medguide.page>) to provide additional Medication Guides when providing partial supplies if the manufacturer-provided guide was previously dispensed. Also, check with your pharmacy software vendor to see if medication guides may be printed on demand.

Some of the buprenorphine products are very expensive. How can I assist a patient in filling their buprenorphine product if they are unable to afford it?

Counsel patients on the availability of manufacturer's discount programs to reduce out-of-pocket costs for medications. It may be reasonable to contact the prescriber for a new prescription or prescription modification when a product change could affect the patient's affordability. Medicaid copayments may be waived if the patient does not have the co-payment at the time of dispensing

How do I bill Medicaid for buprenorphine products?

Buprenorphine products do not have specific requirements for Medicaid billing. If you have difficulty processing a Medicaid claim for buprenorphine products, contact the Medicaid Pharmacy Services Help Desk at 1-800-537-8862

How do I know if a prescriber is qualified to write buprenorphine prescriptions for opiate use disorder (OUD)?

Buprenorphine prescribers treating OUD are required to have a Data 2000 waiver number (X-number) and a DEA registration number on the buprenorphine prescription. Pharmacists can verify prescriber eligibility online through the SAMHSA Buprenorphine Pharmacy Lookup tool at www.samhsa.gov/bupe/lookup-form

How can I get more training on Buprenorphine for OUD?

The following resources are free continuing education programs on OUD for pharmacists

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA): Buprenorphine 101: Physicians and Community Pharmacists Collaborating to Improve Medication-Assisted Treatment

The College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP): Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder

Do providers need to clarify on a buprenorphine prescription if it is for OUD or pain management?

Although it is best practice for a prescriber to include the indication on any prescription, there is no legal requirement for a prescriber to do so on a buprenorphine prescription.



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.”



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

Offer buprenorphine

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