



Changes in Federal Regulation Regarding Medical Providers Prescribing Buprenorphine

Improving access for essential care.



This presentation has been prepared by the staff of the JBS/BPHC Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Initiative



 **BPHC-BH TA**
Bureau of Primary Health Care Behavioral Health Technical Assistance

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Welcome to the BPHC-BH TA Resource Portal!

The Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Behavioral Health (BH) Technical Assistance (TA) portal is designed to meet the specific needs of HRSA health centers and shall focus on both mental health and substance use disorders (referred to jointly as “behavioral health”), with an emphasis on the opioid epidemic.

Learn About BH TA Options

- One-on-One Coaching
- E-learning Webinars
- Intensive TA for Practice Change
- Join a Community of Practice (CoP)
- Integration of Oral Health and Behavioral Health Virtual Learning Collaborative
- Virtual Brown Bag Lunches



Objectives

- ✓ To describe why the Waiver Elimination (MAT Act) was enacted.
- ✓ To summarize the MAT Act content which became effective June 27, 2023.
- ✓ To describe what the MAT Act means for providers and prescribers.
- ✓ To inform you of no cost training and consultation opportunities available to you and your health center regarding treatment of patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).



Rationale for Federal Policy Change

- ✓ The X-waiver training requirement has been viewed by some providers and policymakers as a barrier to building OUD treatment infrastructure.
- ✓ Buprenorphine can be provided in primary care (and other) settings, where OUD can be managed alongside other health conditions.
- ✓ Easing prescribing requirements around buprenorphine supports efforts to *integrate behavioral health into primary care*.
- ✓ This change normalizes treatment and may reduce the stigma of OUD.
- ✓ Removal of the X-waiver can help historically underserved communities gain access to treatment for opioid use disorder (e.g., communities of color, rural communities).



Summary of MAT Act Changes

- ✓ The DATA-Waiver is no longer required to treat patients with OUD.
- ✓ The (SAMHSA) DATA-Waiver registration number is no longer required on opioid use disorder prescriptions.
- ✓ OUD prescriptions, like all prescriptions, now only require a standard DEA registration number.



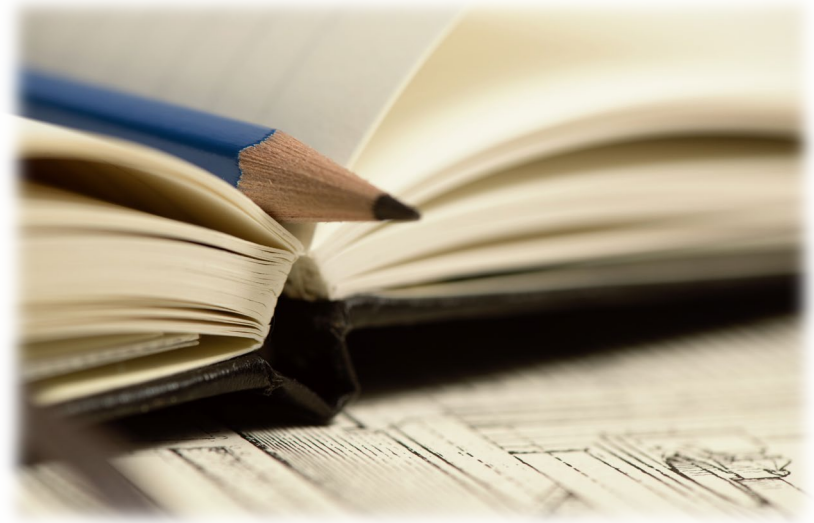
What Does This Change at the Federal Level Include?

- ✓ The DATA Waiver requirement for prescribing buprenorphine for OUD is removed.
- ✓ The DATA Waiver program at SAMHSA has ended, and no new applications will be accepted.
- ✓ The training that was required to obtain the DATA Waiver has been removed.
- ✓ The federal patient limits (e.g., the prior prescribing limitations of 30, 100, & 275) associated with the DATA Waiver have been removed.
- ✓ The DATA Waiver ID (i.e., X-number) is no longer required to be written/printed on prescriptions for buprenorphine.
- ✓ From a federal perspective, any prescriber authorized to prescribe controlled substances can prescribe buprenorphine, subject to State-specific restrictions.
- ✓ All DEA requirements for prescribing controlled substances, in general, still apply.
- ✓ SAMHSA and DEA guidance includes language that State-specific policies still apply.



Important Notes

- ✓ According to the MAT-ACT, all prescriptions for buprenorphine now only require a standard DEA registration number that includes Schedule III authority.
- ✓ The MAT-ACT does not supersede State authority.
- ✓ Some states have new or existing additional requirements. For instance, one or more states only recognize MDs or DOs as eligible to prescribe buprenorphine.



New Training Requirements

- ✓ New training requirements for DEA registration are introduced in the MAT Act and are effective June 21, 2023.
- ✓ The requirements are that providers complete (at least) 8 hours of training on the treatment and management of patients with substance use disorder (SUD), including OUD.
- ✓ New and renewing prescriber training must be complete within 90 days of June 21, 2023 (complete by September 20, 2023).
- ✓ Further training-related guidance will be provided by the DEA and SAMHSA.

Learning Objectives of 8-hour SUD/OUD Provider Training

1. Epidemiology of SUDs and related mortality and morbidity in the United States; a review of DSM-5 and ICD-10 criteria for SUD/OUD
2. Neurobiology of Addiction
3. Patient Evaluation
4. Pharmacology
5. Specialty Skills
6. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Urine Drug Screening (UDS)
7. Evidence-based Counseling/Psychotherapy
8. Clinical Care Management



Approved Providers of Required 8-hour SUD/ODD Training

- ✓ Providers Clinical Support System : <https://pcssnow.org/about/>
- ✓ The American Society of Addiction Medicine
- ✓ The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
- ✓ The American Medical Association
- ✓ The American Osteopathic Association
- ✓ The American Dental Association
- ✓ The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
- ✓ The American Psychiatric Association
- ✓ The American Nurses Credentialing Center
- ✓ The American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- ✓ The American Academy of Physician Associates
- ✓ Any organization accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or the Commission
- ✓ Any organization accredited by a State medical society accreditor that is recognized by the ACCME or the CCEPR
- ✓ Any organization accredited by the American Osteopathic Association to provide continuing medical education
- ✓ Any organization approved by the ACCME, or the CCEPR



OUD Treatment Considerations

- ✓ The MAT-ACT reduces barriers; however, workforce issues persist that need action.
- ✓ Provider reluctance and (perhaps) bias remain.
 - ✓ Stigma-based — not wanting to have “those patients” in waiting rooms.
 - ✓ Hesitance to treat a disease such as SUD.
 - ✓ Education helps but likely is not enough.
- ✓ A team-based integrated approach within a health center holds promise to concretely to support providers and reduce provider reluctance to treat OUD.
 - ✓ A team-based integrated approach to OUD treatment prescriber support by a team of onsite behavioral health providers, case workers, nurses and/or peer recovery workers.

Intensive TA Support Addressing Needs of Patients with OUD

Available At No Cost

At no cost to federally-funded health centers, intensive technical assistance is available through HRSA's BPHC-BHTA team. Simply click the link below and complete the request form. A team member will reach out to you.

Request Form Link:

<https://bphc-ta.jbsinternational.com/ta-request-form>





**On Behalf of HRSA's Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Team,
Thank You for the Work You Do!**

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Helpful Resources

- [https://www.samhsa.gov/medications-substance-use-disorders/waiver-elimination-mat-act#:~:text=Section%201262%20of%20the%20Consolidated,opioid%20use%20disorder%20\(OUD\)](https://www.samhsa.gov/medications-substance-use-disorders/waiver-elimination-mat-act#:~:text=Section%201262%20of%20the%20Consolidated,opioid%20use%20disorder%20(OUD))
- <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2022/12/30/president-signs-bipartisan-measure-to-improve-addiction-treatment>
- <https://www.deaiverison.usdoj.gov/pubs/docs/A-23-0020-Dear-Registrant-Letter-Signed.pdf>
- https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/addiction-medicine/pdf/addiction-medicine-primer_508.pdf
- https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/addiction-medicine/pdf/addiction-medicine-checklist_508.pdf
- <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/addiction-medicine/training/index.html>