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SAMHSA and DEA end Data 2000 (X) Waiver and remove patient limits to increase buprenorphine access for people with Opioid Use Disorder

On December 29th 2022, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA](#)) and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) eliminated the requirement for providers to have a DATA 2000 (X) waiver to prescribe buprenorphine-containing medication products for the treatment of opioid use disorder. SAMHSA has additionally dropped the limit on the number of patients a provider can prescribe buprenorphine medications to. **The goal of this is to reduce prescribing barriers for providers and increase access to buprenorphine medications for people seeking treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD).**

Buprenorphine is a medication used to effectively treat OUD. This medication works to:

- Manage craving and withdrawal.
- Reduce illicit opioid use.
- Decrease the risk of having an overdose.

What does this mean for providers?

- If you have a current DEA registration number that includes Schedule III authority, effective immediately you may now prescribe buprenorphine formulations for opioid use disorder.
- There are no longer limitations on the number of patients a prescriber can treat for opioid use disorder with buprenorphine.
- There are no medication-specific training requirements at this time.
- With this provision, waiver applications from SAMHSA are no longer needed.

Resources:

If you have not prescribed buprenorphine or Suboxone® (buprenorphine/naloxone) and would like additional education, there are many resources available to support safe and effective treatment of opioid use disorder.

- [Providers Clinical Support System](#)
- [Learn About Treatment](#)
- [American College of Emergency Physicians](#)
- [University of Washington Consultation Line](#)
 - **Phone:** 877-927-7924

Prescribing providers can also ask questions to Washington professional commissions for prescribers, including:

- [Medical Commission](#)
- [Nursing Commission](#)
- [Osteopathic Board](#)
- [Pharmacy Commission](#)

-more-

Health Advisory

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More Information:

- [DEA announcement](#)
- [SAMHSA Removal of DATA Waiver Requirement](#)
- [Health Care Authority medications for opioid use disorder](#)

For any additional questions, please contact Hannah.Carmichael@doh.wa.gov

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