

BUPRENORPHINE REFORMS & CHANGES

The federal government no longer requires a waiver for prescribing Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).



Buprenorphine for OUD is being treated just like any other Schedule III controlled substance. Additionally, the patient limits included in the original waiver are gone.

Buprenorphine is no longer singled out. It can now be prescribed by your primary doctor.

Buprenorphine for OUD can legally be prescribed by doctors, physicians, and advanced practice clinicians (NPs, PAs), so long as their state scope of practice allows prescribing Schedule III controlled substances. They may not be comfortable with doing it personally - this remains to be seen.



Advocate on behalf of yourself, clients, family members, and others.

- Teach clients, family members, & others how to advocate for themselves & give them the language to use: "I know that under federal law you can prescribe this to me now. If you are not willing to, can you please refer me to a doctor who will?"
- If you are a practitioner, you can write a letter of support to a client's clinician.

Addressing identified barriers to prescribing Buprenorphine.

Although patients may benefit from counseling, federal law and most states do not require that patients receive counseling while participating in Buprenorphine treatment. Patients not interested in counseling should still be able to access Buprenorphine. While best practices recommend regular urine drug screening of patients on Buprenorphine treatment, federal law and most states do not specify the frequency of screening. Screening should not be used in a punitive manner but rather to inform improvements to patients' care.



FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT:

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