



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

**Offer buprenorphine treatment
for opioid use disorder.**

For more information about New York City's
free buprenorphine training and technical
assistance, visit nyc.gov/health or
email buprenorphine@health.nyc.gov.

For patient referral resources, please visit
nyc.gov/nycwell or call 888-NYC-WELL.



**TREAT
ADDICTION.
SAVE
LIVES.**

**OFFER BUPRENORPHINE
TREATMENT.**

Prescribing buprenorphine is easier than you
might think. Here's what you need to know
and free resources to help you get started.



WHAT IS BUPRENORPHINE?

Buprenorphine is a partial opioid agonist approved for treatment of 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 office-based primary care settings, just like other medications you prescribe for chronic health conditions. Offer buprenorphine in your practice and give your patients access to life-saving treatment they might not otherwise get.



FAQ

Q: Who can prescribe buprenorphine?

A: Any physician (MD or DO), nurse practitioner (NP), or physician assistant (PA) can prescribe buprenorphine after obtaining a waiver. Physicians are required to take an eight-hour training in order to apply for a waiver; NPs and PAs must take 24 hours of training (inclusive of the physician 8-hour training) to apply.



Q: How do I get trained to prescribe buprenorphine?

A: There are several options available to complete the required buprenorphine waiver training, including online (search SAMHSA.gov for “buprenorphine training”). The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene sponsors free, regular buprenorphine trainings.

Email buprenorphine@health.nyc.gov for more information.



Q: I didn't learn about buprenorphine during my clinical training. Is it complicated?

A: Prescribing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder is like treating many other chronic conditions that you routinely see in primary care. You will learn the basic steps during the required training. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene can also match you with an experienced prescriber for clinical mentorship, and can provide technical assistance to help prepare you and your office staff.

Email buprenorphine@health.nyc.gov for more information.



Q: I am not sure I want to treat people who use drugs in my practice.

A: Individuals with opioid use disorder are likely already part of your practice. An estimated 65,000 to 75,000 New Yorkers have this disorder, and most do not receive the effective treatment they need. Buprenorphine treatment can prevent overdose and improve the lives of patients you currently care for.



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.”

**Methadone and naltrexone are the two other FDA-approved medications used to treat opioid use disorder.*