

Buprenorphine Public Health Detailing Initiative Overview

The United States is amid an epidemic of opioid overdose and overdose deaths, driven by misuse of opioids. This is accelerating, fueled primarily by overdose deaths from illicit opioids. People living with an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) need access to life-saving treatment that will help to reduce the number of deaths associated with opioids.^{1,2}

In response to this crisis, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has launched a statewide public health detailing initiative on **Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder** in order to expand access to treatment for people living with OUD. The primary goal is to further educate providers about the benefits of Medication Assisted Treatment, more recently referred to as Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT), and specifically on the utilization of buprenorphine. As a provider you have the capacity to reach patients who could benefit from effective evidence-based treatment options, and the opportunity to fight the opioid crisis through increasing access to buprenorphine.

Buprenorphine, a commonly used evidence-based treatment of an OUD in the United States, is a realistic step to reduce mortality. Patient safety depends on care that is evidence-based, emphasizes harm reduction, and has a low barrier to entry. Buprenorphine can be offered in a wide variety of venues outside of the traditional drug treatment setting, including office-based, outpatient clinics, emergency departments and correctional settings.³

NYSDOH is dedicated to providing support to providers who are new to prescribing buprenorphine. **Public Health Detailing**, sometimes referred to as academic detailing or educational outreach, are structured visits by trained personnel to meet with health care providers for the purpose of delivering tailored training and technical assistance to help use best practices and provide evidence-based care to their patients in order to promote better prescribing, screening, and patient education.

These **Buprenorphine Public Health Detailing Modules** were created by experts in prescribing buprenorphine in New York State as part of an initiative to provide targeted public health education on buprenorphine to providers who are new to prescribing buprenorphine. These educational modules pertain to a variety of different populations and are designed to facilitate more successful treatment and care for patients with OUD. The modules will further inform and assist providers who have attended the *Buprenorphine Waiver Eligibility Training for Clinical Providers* on the best practices for buprenorphine induction, prescribing, and ongoing monitoring to help patients with OUD live healthy and improved lives.

The four modules covered are: 1) Introduction to Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder, 2) Pharmacology and Administration, 3) Clinical Use of Buprenorphine, and 4) Special Populations.

Questions/Support: NYSDOH provides ongoing technical assistance, training and support on topics related to buprenorphine and opioids. For further information, e-mail buprenorphine@health.ny.gov

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References

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2. CDC, National Center for Health Statistics. *Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths, as of 8/6/2017*. Available at https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/health_policy/monthly-drug-overdose-death-estimates.pdf. Accessed October 19, 2017.
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