

# X-Waiver Changes

As of January 2023, under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, a buprenorphine waiver (X-Waiver) is no longer required to treat patients with buprenorphine for opioid use disorder (OUD). This means that all practitioners with current Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration may now prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder and are **encouraged to do so**. The Act also introduced new training requirements for all practitioners that went into effect on **June 27, 2023**.

## Key Takeaways

- An X-Waiver registration is no longer required to treat patients with buprenorphine for opioid use disorder.
- An ordinary DEA registration number is required for buprenorphine prescriptions.
- There are no limits or patient caps on the number of patients a practitioner may treat for opioid use disorder with buprenorphine.
- In Pennsylvania, no current state laws or regulations prohibit practitioners from adopting this change.
- The Act enacted a new **one-time**, eight-hour training requirement that went into effect June 27, 2023, for all DEA-registered practitioners on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders. [How Can Practitioners Satisfy This New Training Requirement?](#)

## What is Buprenorphine?

- **What:** An evidence-based prescription medication available to treat opioid use disorder.
- **How:** Buprenorphine is a partial opioid agonist, is very safe, and treats opioid withdrawal and cravings.
- **Who:** Practitioners can prescribe buprenorphine to individuals with opioid use disorder. Buprenorphine can be prescribed to people who are pregnant.
- **Why:** Research has found that patients who receive buprenorphine are less likely to overdose, die, use illicit opioids, spread hepatitis C virus or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and have fewer injection drug use complications and contacts with the criminal justice system



## Additional Resources

- [Letter from the DEA](#)
- [MATE Training Letter](#)
- [X-Waiver Update](#)
- [Recommendations for Curricular Elements in Substance Use Disorders Training](#)
- [Buprenorphine Basics](#)
- [Suboxone](#)
- [Naloxone](#)
- [How Does Suboxone Work?](#)
- [Pocket Guide](#)
- [Extended Guide](#)
- [Tapering Suboxone Safely](#)



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