

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT

Public Chapter 761 allows NPs and PAs in FQHCs and Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) to prescribe buprenorphine for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).



If a FQHC or CMHC provides MAT to at least 150 patients at any one physical location OR if MAT is provided to 25% or more of the patients at one physical site, the FQHC or CMHC will need to become licensed as a Nonresidential Office-based Opiate Treatment (OBOT) Facility.

Under Public Chapter 761, **NPs and PAs can prescribe buprenorphine at CHCs and CMHCs if the following conditions are met:**

QUALIFICATIONS

- NPs & PAs must be licensed and have practiced as a family, adult, or psychiatric NP or PA in TN
- NPs & PAs can't have any limits or conditions on their licenses within the last 3 years
- NPs & PAs must obtain a federal DATA 2000 waiver

SETTING AND FACILITIES

- NPs & PAs must be employed by an FQHC or CMHC that employs at least 1 physician and has clinical protocols for MAT
- FQHC or CMCH providers must be contracted and credentialed with TennCare & MCOs to treat opioid use disorder and prescribe buprenorphine for MAT
- FQHC or CMCH must be accepting new TennCare patients or patients for treatment of opioid use disorder
- FQHC or CMCH must verify the identity of patients

PRESCRIBING AND TREATMENT

- NPs and PAs can only prescribe buprenorphine to FQHC or CMHC patients
- Providers must limit prescriptions to 16 milligram daily equivalents or less
- Providers must write prescriptions that can only be dispensed at licensed pharmacies to guarantee entry into the controlled substances database
- NPs & PAs cannot prescribe or dispense mono products or buprenorphine without naloxone
- NPs & PAs must consider the risks of relapse with benefits of tapering. Providers must have discussions with patients about their readiness to taper down or off treatment at the patient's request, but at least within 1 year of starting treatment and every 6 months after
- Providers can only prescribe buprenorphine to up to 50 patients at any given time

SUPERVISION/COLLABORATION

- NPs & PAs must work under the supervision of a physician with a federal DATA 2000 waiver who is actively treating patients with buprenorphine for recovery or MAT
- NPs and PAs who prescribe buprenorphine must be supervised by or collaborate with a physician who can only supervise up to 4 NPs or PAs who are providing MAT
- NPs and PAs must be supervised by or collaborate with a physician who reviews 100% of the charts of patients prescribed buprenorphine