



DATA 2000 Waiver Overview for Physicians

What is the DATA 2000 Waiver?

Historically, federal regulations regarding medication and treatment made it difficult for physicians to treat opioid addiction. The Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA 2000) was passed in 2000 to make it easier for physicians to provide care for people suffering from addiction. It allows qualified physicians to obtain a waiver to treat opioid addiction with otherwise restricted medication in any clinical setting where they are licensed to practice.

What are the patient limits under the waiver?

Physicians are only permitted to provide buprenorphine treatment to 30 patients for the first year following their waiver acquisition. After the first year, physicians can apply to increase their patient capacity to up to 100 patients.

Am I qualified to obtain a waiver?

Under DATA 2000, eligible physicians must be:

- Licensed under state law
- Registered with the DEA to prescribe controlled substances
- Capable of referring patients to counseling and other services
- Qualified by training and/or certification

There are many ways to become qualified. Some of the more common ways are:

- Completing a CME training course, [such as one of several identified by SAMHSA](#). Most courses take a minimum of eight hours, and some may include fees. ***Groups reimburses the cost of the training for physicians who join our practice.***
- Subspecialty in addiction psychiatry from the American Board of Medical Specialties
- Addiction certification from the American Society for Addiction Medicine
- Subspecialty in addiction medicine from the American Osteopathic Association

How do I apply for a waiver?

Qualified physicians should apply using SAMHSA's [Waiver Notification Form SMA-167](#). You should receive confirmation of your application. SAMHSA's review process can take up to 45 days. Once approved, you will receive a letter with your prescribing identification number. You will only receive one waiver, regardless of whether you possess multiple DEA registrations or practice locations. Once you receive your waiver, you are authorized to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid addiction treatment in any setting for which you are otherwise credentialed to practice.