



Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

as part of the 21st Century Cures Act

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Outlining a Pathway to Increase Prescribers with a DEA DATA 2000 Waiver

The 21st Century CURES Act enacted by Congress in December 2016 recognized that states need significant help to combat the opioid epidemic across the nation. It is designed to modernize health care through enhanced innovation, research and communication, leading to better patient outcomes. The Act also makes new funding available to states to combat the prescription opioid and heroin crisis through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SAMHSA will provide up to \$970 million to states and territories over the next two years, beginning in 2017.

As one of the states hit hardest by the opioid epidemic, Ohio is among the largest recipients of grant funding. Over the next two years, Ohio will receive \$26 million per year that will focus on several core principles, one of which is the development and maintenance of a skilled workforce that can prescribe buprenorphine for medication assisted treatment (MAT). MAT has been recognized by SAMHSA, researchers, and healthcare professionals as a critical component in the treatment of people with opioid use disorder. Without MAT, the rate at which patients relapse back to illicit drug use is extremely high (up to 90%); however, relapse rates are lowest when MAT is used in conjunction with counseling (up to 50%).

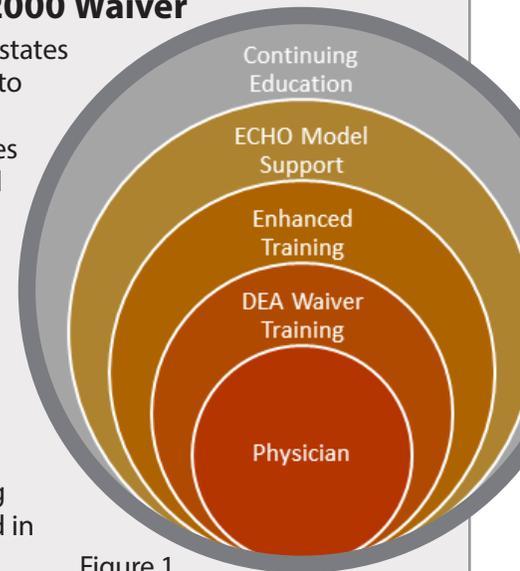


Figure 1

Increased availability and use of MAT can lower mortality, improve recovery rates, and decrease individual and societal costs of opioid use disorders.

Ohio Must Expand the Prescriber Workforce

Currently, buprenorphine availability is limited in Ohio because it is the only form of MAT that requires prescribers (i.e., physicians, physician assistants or advanced nurse practitioners) to have a unique DEA license (aka, DATA 2000 waiver). Prescribers must obtain additional training to obtain this license through one eight-hour course and then apply for a DATA 2000 waiver through SAMHSA. Prescribers may treat up to 30 patients their first year of practice, and additional patients if they apply for a higher-level license after their first year of treating 30 patients.

Ohio's existing prescriber workforce is inadequate to meet the MAT need. The DEA indicates that only 1,101 physicians were licensed to prescribe buprenorphine as of January, 2017, which is about two percent of the entire allopathic and osteopathic physician workforce licensed to practice medicine in Ohio. Most of these physicians are believed to be in the behavioral health field, which means that patients would have limited access to MAT through other physician practices like primary care and specialty care (e.g., obstetrics/gynecology).

Nineteen of Ohio's counties do not have access to physicians with a DATA 2000 waiver.

OhioMHAS' goal is a seamless system of care in which a patient with opioid use disorder can enter and be treated by any medical professional with prescribing privileges. OhioMHAS has designed a training agenda that will allow physicians to obtain the DATA 2000 waiver, participate in enhanced training sessions to learn more about drug dependence and the [American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) (ASAM) Criteria, fine tune their skills through mentorship programs, and engage in continuing education programs (Figure 1).

DATA 2000 Training Offered Live and Online

Physicians practicing throughout Ohio will be encouraged to obtain their [DATA 2000 Patient Limit](#) waiver through one of two types of trainings. Live sessions will be offered to the communities hit hardest by the opioid epidemic (47 in the first year and 25 in the second year of the grant). These trainings will span 1.5 days, and physicians will be reimbursed up to \$1,300 for their time assuming that they attend all of the training and provide proof of their DATA 2000 waiver.



The first day of training will provide all of the material needed to obtain the waiver, and the second day will cover pertinent topics like low-dose prescribing according to federal and state standards, DEA documentation standards, motivational interviewing, and referral to behavioral health specialists. Physicians practicing in the hardest hit communities will be given priority placement for live training events, but physicians from any community may be put on a waiting list if space is available. A forthcoming website will present training opportunities, and allow physicians to register.

Online DATA 2000 waiver trainings will also be available for physicians statewide. OhioMHAS will purchase 2,000 online trainings each year of the grant, which will give physicians access to the eight-hour course required to obtain their waiver. Physicians opting to go this route will not be reimbursed for their time; however, they will still have access to all training materials provided in the live course.

Enhanced Training in the ASAM Criteria

Physicians with their DATA 2000 waiver may obtain additional training about drug addiction and dependence through ASAM criteria trainings. OhioMHAS will provide 10 live trainings in communities hardest hit by the opioid epidemic per year of the grant. Each two-day seminar will provide an in-depth look at the theoretical foundations of the ASAM Criteria, including clinically driven services, biopsychosocial assessment, the six dimensions, continued stay and transfer/discharge criteria. Physicians attending the event will receive a free copy of the ASAM Criteria, 3rd edition. Similar to the DATA 2000 waiver training, physicians practicing in the hardest hit communities will be given priority placement for live training events, but physicians from any community may be put on a waiting list if space is available. A forthcoming website will present training opportunities, and allow physicians to sign up.

Online ASAM trainings will also be available for physicians statewide. OhioMHAS will purchase 1,500 online trainings each year of the grant, which will give each physician access to two modules. The multidimensional assessment module will help physicians understand the six assessment dimensions of the ASAM Criteria, analyze the dimensional interaction and holistic treatment approach that are key to these criteria, and practice applying the ASAM Criteria to real-life, clinical situations. A service planning and level-of-care module will help physicians explore topics like approaching assessment from an individualized, participant-focused perspective; understand immediate need, multidimensional and comprehensive initial assessment; and identify risk, severity and level of function, as well as target areas of concern and their corresponding services.

ECHO Model Support

OhioMHAS will be sponsoring several services to help mentor and provide continuing education for physicians through Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes). Developed at the University of New Mexico, an ECHO is a collaborative model of medical education and care

management that empowers clinicians to provide better care through collaboration with expert health care professionals.

Teleconferences/webinars will be hosted by Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) through two distinct ECHOS. A mentorship ECHO will be offered by physician experts for up to 30 waived physicians that will help them gain the experience they need to be comfortable prescribing buprenorphine. The mentorship program will hold teleconferences/webinars once a week and cover topics such as documentation, difficult cases, patient retention and patient referral. At the end of the two-month mentorship program, a new cohort of physicians will be recruited and taken through the same process.

A continuing education ECHO will also be hosted by NEOMED that will be open to all buprenorphine prescribers in every Ohio community. This ECHO's teleconference/webinar schedule will rotate topics each week of the month in the following order: 1) opioid abuse and dependence, 2) emergency department physicians, 3) primary care physicians, 4) obstetric physicians, and 5) general topics of concern (if a fifth week is present in a month). Half of each teleconference/webinar will be dedicated to a didactic presentation (e.g., motivational interviewing in emergency department settings), and half of the session will be dedicated to case review with a panel of experts.

Continuing Education

A 23-part curriculum will also be developed by expert health care professionals to educate prescribers and behavioral health professionals about drug addiction and its impact. Through professionally produced one-hour vignettes, participants will obtain in-depth knowledge about many subject areas. All courses will be free through the OhioMHAS e-based academy with free CE/CME. Course content will include sessions on:

- **Fundamentals of Prevention of Opioid Abuse and Dependence**
- Fundamentals of Addiction
- **Getting a Physician Practice Ready to Use the Waiver**
- Basics of Motivational Interviewing
- **Prescribing Best Practices (including federal and state guidelines)**
- Basics of MAT
- **MAT and Child Welfare Professionals**
- MAT and Pregnancy
- **MAT in General Primary Care and Family Practice Settings**
- MAT in Psychiatric Settings
- **MAT in Emergency Department Settings**
- MAT in Adolescent Medical Settings
- **MAT in Obstetric Settings**
- MAT and Non-Prescribing Professionals
- **MAT in Recovery Community Organizations**
- Managing Pain in Patients with Opioid Use Disorders
- **Trauma Informed Approaches**
- Vicarious Trauma Overview
- **Vicarious Trauma for EMS**
- Vicarious Trauma for CPS Workers
- **Vicarious Trauma for Peer Support Workers**
- Vicarious Trauma for Foster Care Parents
- **Criminal Justice and MAT**