



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's State Targeted Response (STR) to the Opioid Epidemic grant provides up to \$970 million to states and territories over a two year period.

As one of the states hit hardest by the opioid epidemic, Ohio is among the largest recipients of grant funding. Beginning May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2019, Ohio has received \$26 million per year that focuses 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%).

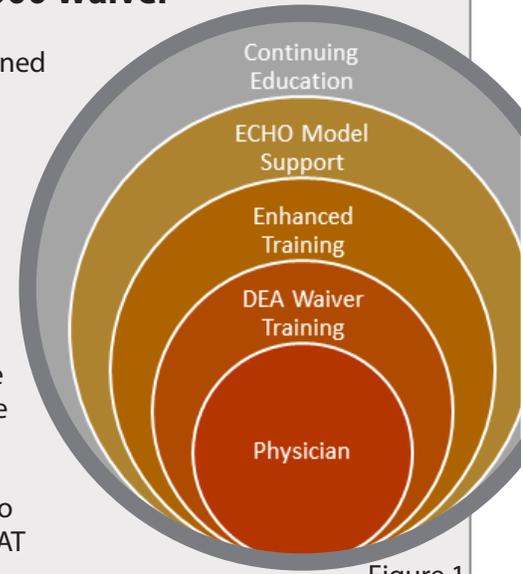


Figure 1

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).

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, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants practicing throughout Ohio are being encouraged to obtain their [DATA 2000 Patient Limit](#) waiver through one of [two types of trainings](#). Live sessions are 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 span 1.5 days, and physicians are reimbursed up to \$1,300 and nurse practitioners and physician assistants are reimbursed up to \$750 for their time assuming that they attend all of the training and provide proof of their DATA 2000 waiver.

The first day of training provides all of the material needed to obtain the waiver, and the second day covers pertinent topics

like low-dose prescribing according to federal and state standards, DEA documentation standards, motivational interviewing, and referral to behavioral health specialists.

Online DATA 2000 waiver trainings are also available for physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants statewide. OhioMHAS has purchased 2,000 online trainings each year of the grant, which gives participants access to the eight-hour course required to obtain their waiver.

Practitioners opting to go this route are not reimbursed for their time; however, they will still have access to all training materials provided in the live course.

Institutional Expert Waiver Training Program

To further increase the prescriber workforce and access to DATA 2000 waiver trainings in Ohio, OhioMHAS is sponsoring a training program within ten Ohio hospitals. The program enables two waived physicians from each participating hospital to complete the Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS) requirements to become a course instructor for the DATA 2000 Waiver training. The course instructors at each hospital are offering at least two waiver trainings to the physicians and physician residents. The program enables hospitals to have a self-sustaining waiver training program in-house that can become a part of their residency curriculum.

Enhanced Training in the ASAM Criteria

Physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants with their DATA 2000 waiver may obtain additional training about drug addiction and dependence through [ASAM criteria trainings](#). OhioMHAS offered 10 live trainings in the first year of the grant and is offering an additional 23 trainings in year two. Each two-day seminar provides 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. Attendee receive a free copy of the ASAM Criteria, 3rd edition. Prescribers are given priority placement for live training events, but other disciplines working with the substance use disorder population may attend when space permits.

Online ASAM trainings are also available for practitioners statewide. OhioMHAS has purchased 1,500 online trainings each year of the grant, which will give each participants access to two modules. The multidimensional assessment module will help practitioners 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 helps participants 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 is 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.

Video conferences are hosted by Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) through [two distinct ECHOS](#). A mentorship ECHO is offered by physician experts for up to 30 waived prescribers that will help them gain the experience they need to be comfortable prescribing buprenorphine. The mentorship program holds video conferences 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 is recruited and taken through the same process.

A continuing education ECHO is also open to all prescribers in every Ohio community and covers more in-depth topics related to prescribing buprenorphine. Half of each videoconference is dedicated to a didactic presentation and half of the session is dedicated to case review with a panel of experts.

Continuing Education

A 23-part curriculum is also being 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**
- **Best practices in Urine Drug Screens for Addiction**
- **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**
- **Behavioral Health Linkages for Medical Professionals**
- **MAT in Recovery Community Organizations**
- **Managing Pain in Patients with Opioid Use Disorders**
- **Trauma Informed Approaches**
- **Secondary Trauma for Administrators/Organization Transformation**
- **Vicarious Trauma for First Responders**
- **Secondary Trauma for Child Welfare Professionals**
- **Vicarious Trauma for Peer Support Workers**
- **Secondary Trauma for Foster Care Parents**
- **Criminal Justice and MAT**