



Get On Board The  
**BUPRENORPHINE BUS**  
SMART Medicine

# WHAT IS BUPRENORPHINE?

**Buprenorphine** is a medication used for the treatment of **opioid use disorder (OUD)**

## BUPRENORPHINE'S IMPORTANT **ROLE** IN TREATING ADDICTION

Opioid use disorder is a chronic illness, like heart disease or diabetes. A chronic illness may be a medical condition for life. It can be managed. A person with OUD can regain a healthy, productive life.

## MEDICATION-ASSISTED **TREATMENT** (MAT)

is the treatment for OUD that includes the use of medication along with counseling and other support. Taking medication for opioid addiction is like taking medication to control other chronic illness. It is NOT the same as substituting one addictive drug for another. Used properly, Buprenorphine medication does NOT create a new addiction.



### Sample Payment Rates (July 2018):

**MAT Ongoing**  
(Evaluation and Management, including Rx -**Straight forward**)

**\$44.57** /visit

**MAT Ongoing**  
(Evaluation and Management, including Rx -**Highly complex**)

**\$146.22** /visit

### Steps for a clinician (physician, NP, PA) to obtain a waiver:

1. You must have a valid medical license and an active DEA number
2. Take an 8-hour MAT waiver course (may be completed online: <https://tinyurl.com/samhsawaiver>)
3. Complete your Notice of Intent Form (online: <https://tinyurl.com/BupNOIF>)

**Note: NPs and PAs who have completed the 24 hours of required training may seek to obtain a waiver for up to 30 patients by completing the Waiver Notification Form online.**

4. Forward your Certificate of Completion to SAMHSA

## BENEFITS FOR **PATIENTS**

The main advantages of buprenorphine are:



The patient is unlikely to overdose on buprenorphine if taken properly.



Buprenorphine is long acting; therefore reducing the dosage to every other day is possible.



Clinicians can prescribe buprenorphine in take-home doses.

## BENEFITS FOR **CLINICIANS**

The main advantages of buprenorphine are:



Manageable and effective in outpatient primary care settings



MAT is billable through private insurance, Medicare (starting in 2020) and Medicaid



A means of helping the community by reducing fatal opioid overdoses