

# Removing Barriers to Prescribing Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

## A Resource Sheet

The [Superior Health Quality Alliance Shine a Light on Stigma Campaign](#) is excited about the new [Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment \(MAT\) Act](#), federal legislation that will help decrease the stigma associated with substance use disorders by removing barriers to prescribing medications for opioid use disorder. [Here](#) is a brief overview of the new provisions, which now apply to physicians, dentists, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

In addition, the new [Medication Access and Training Expansion \(MATE\) Act](#) ensures that all buprenorphine and other DEA-controlled medication prescribers have a baseline knowledge of how to prevent addiction and how to identify, treat, and manage patients who have substance use disorders by requiring eight hours of training in substance use disorder treatment.



**To support health care providers around these new changes, we've created this brief list of resources for clinical practice.**

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The new [CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain—United States, 2022](#) addresses some “misapplications” of its 2016 Guidelines and [summarizes](#) its 12 recommendations into the following four approaches to clinical practice:

- 1) **Determining** whether to initiate opioids for pain,
- 2) **Selecting** opioids and determining opioid dosages,
- 3) **Deciding duration** of initial opioid prescription and conducting follow-up, and
- 4) **Assessing** risk and addressing potential harms of opioid use.

Special attention is given to the fact that the new 2022 guideline **does not apply to** patients experiencing pain related to:

- Pain management related to sickle cell disease
- Cancer-related pain treatment
- Palliative care
- End-of-life care

(From <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/patients/guideline.html>)

## American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

When a patient is assessed as being at risk for opioid misuse, ASAM provides the [ASAM Practice Guidelines for Treatment of OUD - 2020 Update](#) for support on assessment and recommended care for this population.

Included are links to a [Pocket Guide](#) version of the guideline and [Webinar trainings](#) with CME credits.

## Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

For providers ready to begin prescribing buprenorphine, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has these two Quick Start Guides to help with clinical decision support.

[Buprenorphine Quick Start Guide \(samhsa.gov\)](#) (6 page)

[Buprenorphine Quick Start Pocket Guide \(samhsa.gov\)](#) (2 page)