

THIS CA UPDATE HAS BEEN SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:**COUNTIES:**

- Imperial
- Riverside/San Bernardino
- Los Angeles
- Orange
- Sacramento
- San Diego

LINES OF BUSINESS:

- Molina Medi-Cal Managed Care
- Molina Medicare
- Molina Marketplace (Covered CA)

PROVIDER TYPES:

- Medical Group/ IPA/MSO**
 - Primary Care**
 - IPA/MSO
 - Directs
- Specialists**
 - Directs
 - IPA
- Hospitals**
 - Ancillary**
 - CBAS
 - SNF/LTC
 - DME
 - Home Health
 - Other

Medication Assisted Treatment - Consolidation Appropriations Act of 2023

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers on the removal of the X-Waiver/DATA requirement for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

Section 1262 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 removes the federal requirement for practitioners to apply for a special waiver prior to prescribing buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD). It also removes other federal requirements associated with the waiver such as discipline restrictions, patient limits, and certification related to provision of counseling. Section 1263 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 sets new training requirements when Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registrants renew or apply for DEA certification.

What you need to know:

The special waiver (e.g., a DATA-Waiver) is no longer required to treat patients with OUD. Additionally, the DATA-Waiver registration number is no longer required on OUD prescriptions. OUD prescriptions, like all prescriptions, now only require a standard DEA registration number.

- The prescribers currently registered with the DEA as a DATA-Waived prescriber should have received, or will be receiving, an updated DEA registration certificate to reflect the elimination of the DATA-Waiver registration number. No action is necessary on the registrant's part.
- It should be noted that state laws applicable to this issue may still be in effect. Registrants should take note of their state's requirements because they may differ from federal law.
- There are no longer any patient caps on the number of patients with OUD who may be treated with buprenorphine. A practitioner may treat as many patients as they can support with buprenorphine.
- Buprenorphine, which is a Schedule III medication, can be prescribed by means of telehealth, so long as the prescription adheres to all relevant federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and other related requirements.
- Standard screening for opioid misuse involves clinical interviewing, urine or oral fluid toxicology testing, and the Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale.

When this is happening:

Practitioners seeking to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of OUD no longer need to apply for, or possess, a DATA-Waiver prior to prescribing the medication. They can **immediately** start prescribing buprenorphine for OUD without a DATA-Waiver. Additionally, starting **June 27, 2023**, practitioners will need to ensure that they are in compliance with the educational requirements as described below.

What you need to do:

Starting June 27, 2023, Section 1263 requires new or renewing DEA registrants, upon submission of their application, to have at least one of the following:

- A total of eight hours of training from certain organizations on opioid or other substance use disorders for practitioners renewing or newly applying for a registration from the DEA to prescribe any Schedule II-V controlled medications;
- Board certification in addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry from the American Board of Medical Specialties, American Board of Addiction Medicine, or the American Osteopathic Association; or
- Graduation within five years and status in good standing from medical, advanced practice nursing, or physician assistant school in the United States that included successful completion of an opioid or other substance use disorder curriculum of at least eight hours.

For additional information and resources, please visit the links below:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Waiver Elimination (MAT Act): <https://www.samhsa.gov/medications-substance-use-disorders/waiver-elimination-mat-act>
- Choose Change California MAT: <https://choosechange.ca.org/medication-assisted-treatment/about-mat/>
- California MAT Expansion Project: <https://californiamat.org/>
- California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard: <https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash/?tab=Home>
- Department of Health Care Services California MAT Expansion Project Overview: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/MAT-Expansion-Project.aspx>
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT): <https://www.samhsa.gov/sbirt>

What if you need assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your Molina Provider Services Representative below:

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Please include provider name, NPI, county, and fax number and you will be removed within 30 days.*