

Note Corrected Date for Training

Quick Summary

- **Please note the corrected dates below for the X-Waiver trainings. The trainings will be held on:**
 - **Monday, December 10**
 - **Friday, December 14**
 - **Tuesday, January 15, 2019, and**
 - **Wednesday, January 30, 2019.**
- The most recent opioid law, Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2018, requires acute care hospital emergency departments to have the capacity to initiate opioid agonist treatment, including buprenorphine.
- To aid hospitals in implementing this policy, Boston Medical Center Grayken Center for Addiction and DPH's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services are sponsoring four free buprenorphine "x-waiver" trainings across the state in December and January. Registration is now live.

Registration Open for Free Buprenorphine X-Waiver Trainings

On August 9, Governor Baker signed into law *An Act for prevention and access to appropriate care and treatment of addiction*. Chapter 208 requires acute hospitals with emergency services and satellite emergency departments to have the capacity to initiate opioid agonist therapy, including buprenorphine, to patients that present after an opioid-related overdose.

To prescribe buprenorphine, clinicians must possess a Drug Enforcement Agency Category X waiver; obtaining this waiver requires specific training. In an effort to expand buprenorphine waiver training access, there will be four separate opportunities to receive training in December and January. These sessions will target emergency department providers; however they will be open to all. The waiver course prepares physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to prescribe buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder.

The curriculum for these trainings includes the science of addiction as a brain disorder, the pharmacology of buprenorphine, and the regulatory requirements around prescribing this medication. Attendees will learn to screen patients for treatment with buprenorphine and to manage the medication along with the patient's other medical needs. The Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 requires physicians to complete 8 hours of approved training to be eligible for a waiver, and nurse practitioners (NPs), certified nurse specialists (CNSs), certified nurse midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), and physician assistants (PAs) to complete 24 hours. NPs, CNSs, CNMs, CRNAs, and PAs are

able to complete these 8-hour trainings and then do a supplemental free online 16-hour training to meet the 24-hour requirement.

The dates, locations, and registration links for the trainings are as follows:

Monday, December 10, 2018 – Half and half training (4-hours in person, 4-hours online), MHA, Burlington; To register: <https://www.bmcobat.org/training/register/event/?id=94>

Friday, December 14, 2018 – Full-day waiver training, MHA, Burlington
To register: <https://www.bmcobat.org/training/register/event/?id=95>

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – Full-day waiver training, Baystate Health, Holyoke
To register: <https://www.bmcobat.org/training/register/event/?id=96>

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 – Full-day waiver training, St. Luke's Hospital, New Bedford
To register: <https://www.bmcobat.org/training/register/event/?id=97>

MHA continues to work on the implementation of Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2018. In the coming weeks, we will be releasing guidance specific to these provisions requiring opioid agonist treatment in emergency departments.

If you have any other questions about this or other provisions of Chapter 208, please contact MHA's Leigh Simons Youmans at (781) 262-6026 or lyoumans@mhalink.org.

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