



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration of Physician Assistants
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114

Tel: 617-973-0806
Fax: 617-973-0980
TTY : 617-973-0988

www.mass.gov/dph/boards/pa

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS ADVISORY ON BUPRENORPHINE

On July 22, 2016, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) was signed into law as [Public Law 114-198](#). One of CARA's important provisions expands access to substance use treatment services and overdose reversal medications—including the full spectrum of services from prevention to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and recovery support—by extending the privilege of prescribing buprenorphine in office-based settings to nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) who have a DATA 2000-waiver from the federal government. Additionally, [recent updates](#) to the Board of Registration in Medicine's *Policy 15-05, Prescribing Practices Policy and Guidelines*, recognize that physicians may delegate the prescribing of buprenorphine to physician assistants.

PAs who have completed the 24 hours of required training may seek to obtain a DATA 2000-waiver by completing the [Notification of Intent \(NOI\) \(DOC | 64 KB\)](#) and sending to infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov (link sends e-mail), along with copies of their training certificate(s). Courses are offered for free by SAMHSA through the Providers Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Treatment: <https://pcssnow.org/education-training/mat-training/>

SAMHSA will only accept electronic submissions of the NOI. These waiver applications are forwarded to the DEA, which will assign the PA a special identification number. DEA regulations require this number to be included on all buprenorphine prescriptions for opioid dependency treatment, along with the PA's regular DEA registration number.

SAMHSA shall review waiver applications within 45 days of receipt. If approved, PAs will receive a letter via email that confirms their waiver and includes their prescribing identification number.

DATA 2000 Waiver NOI <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/qualify-nps-pas-waivers>