

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING
Substance Addiction Recovery Program (SARP) Policy 13-01

Title	SARP Eligibility Criteria for Medications used to treat Opiate Use Disorder
Purpose	The Board of Registration in Nursing adopts this policy to establish criteria for admission to and participation of nurses who are undergoing buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone combination, or methadone therapy in the Substance Addiction Recovery Program (SARP) of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (Board).
Date Adopted	September 11, 2013 (adopted), May 10, 2017 (revised), January 10, 2018 (revised), December 19, 2018 (revised), August 10, 2022 (revised)
Definitions	Methadone, buprenorphine, and naloxone are used to treat opioid addiction. Acting on the same targets in the brain as heroin and morphine, methadone and buprenorphine suppress withdrawal symptoms and relieve cravings and naloxone blocks the effects of opioids at receptor sites in the brain. All three medications help patients reduce urges to use opiates and mitigate withdrawal symptoms. (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2018)
Policy	<p>A licensee's use of buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone combination, or methadone shall not be the sole basis for denying admission into SARP or for termination from SARP provided that the following criteria have been met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proof that a qualified prescriber issued a prescription for buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone combination, or methadone to the licensee for the treatment of opioid addiction. 2. Proof that the qualified prescriber monitors the licensee's use of buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone combination, or methadone with toxicology screening that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Occurs on a random, unscheduled basis at least once monthly; b. Tests for the presence of unauthorized substances; and c. Tests for the presence of buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone metabolites, or methadone metabolites. 3. Proof that the licensee has either discontinued use of buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone combination or methadone prior to resuming nursing practice or obtained medical clearance by their prescriber to resume safe nursing practice while maintained on buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone, or methadone. 4. The qualified prescriber will provide to SARP a quarterly Provider Report that documents the licensee's compliance with buprenorphine,

	buprenorphine/naloxone combination or methadone therapy and toxicology screening results.
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