

Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Bureau of Substance Addiction Services  
250 Washington St  
Boston, MA 02108

**“A New Day in OTPs”**

Dear OTP Patients,

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) wants to let you know that there are **NEW** federal rules for opioid treatment programs (OTPs) that may change and improve your experience as a patient at an OTP. These rules will help your OTP empower you as a patient and focus on your own treatment needs while you are making decisions about your treatment together with the OTP staff. BSAS is partnering with your OTP to support you as you participate in this life-saving treatment.

Here are a few key points about some of the changes:

<b>Take-Homes</b>	<p>OTPs are now allowed to provide patients with a higher number of take-homes, and you may be able to receive them earlier in your treatment. <b>All take-home decisions are still the responsibility of the OTP treatment team, led by the OTP medical leadership.</b></p> <p>The physician and team will review many things when deciding about your take-homes, including your active substance use, attendance at the OTP, whether you can keep the medication safe, and other factors that they determine to be relevant.</p> <p>Here is the <b>NEW</b> take-home dosing allowance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to 7 take-home doses if you've been in treatment 0 to 14 days.</li><li>• Up to 14 take-home doses if you've been in treatment between 15 and 30 days.</li><li>• Up to 28 take-home doses if you've been in treatment for 31 days or more.</li></ul> <p>BSAS encourages you to meet with your OTP staff at admission and every month to learn whether you are eligible for take-homes or an increase in your take-homes. You will also learn about what you need to do to get them.</p>
<b>Telehealth</b>	<p>You may be able to go through a part of the admission process using telehealth if your OTP decides that this option is right for you. Additionally, you may be able to receive counseling through telehealth rather than having to go into the OTP.</p>
<b>Counseling</b>	<p>OTPs are required to work with you to create your own Treatment Plan, and based on that plan, you may be offered substance use disorder counseling. A new change is that participating in counseling is not required to access your medication or to remain in treatment. OTPs are still required to offer and provide counseling, and many patients could benefit from counseling at some point. You are encouraged to talk with the OTP team about what they recommend for you.</p>

Scan to learn more about how these changes affect you:

