



LICENSING ALERT 01-21

** Replaces Licensing Alerts 03-2011, 03-2012, 04-2012 **

Ellen DiDomenico
Deputy Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen DiDomenico".

June 16, 2021

Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

Effective: July 1, 2021

Subject: Use of Medication for Treatment of Substance Use Disorder within Licensed Facilities

Medication for the treatment of Substance Use Disorder is an evidence-based practice that should be available in all licensed programs. Use of medication is a clinical decision based on the appropriateness for an individual's treatment plan. This alert provides clarification on the requirements that licensed providers must meet to use certain medications including methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone.

Narcotic Treatment Program: Pennsylvania regulation 28 Pa. Code § 715.1(a) requires an entity within Pennsylvania which uses narcotic medication for maintenance or detoxification of persons to obtain approval from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) to operate a Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP).

A treatment facility that intends to use methadone for the treatment of individuals must be licensed by DDAP as an NTP. The facility must also obtain an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Certificate from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

A treatment facility that intends to use a facility Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration to order stock supplies of buprenorphine to dispense to its patients must be licensed by DDAP as an NTP. The facility must also obtain an OTP Certificate from the SAMHSA.

To become an NTP/OTP for methadone or buprenorphine services, the facility must:

- Submit written notification to DDAP to add NTP services to its license. The request must be submitted to RA-Licensureapps@pa.gov.
- Contact a SAMHSA OTP Compliance Officer at 240-276-2700 or DPT@samhsa.hhs.gov.

Other Chemotherapy: The Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) permits practitioners who meet certain qualifications to treat opioid dependency with narcotic medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration in treatment settings other than

NTPs. Use of buprenorphine by a DATA 2000-waivered practitioner in a DDAP licensed facility is considered an "Other Chemotherapy" approach.

A treatment facility that intends to utilize a DATA 2000-waivered practitioner who will use their own DEA registration to order stock supplies of buprenorphine or to write buprenorphine prescriptions for patients of the facility is not required to follow DDAP's 28 Pa. Code § 715 NTP regulations.

Naltrexone is a non-narcotic medication used for the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder. Practitioners who can prescribe or administer naltrexone under the scope of their existing license do not need to meet additional DEA or SAMHSA requirements.

To use a DATA 2000-waivered practitioner for buprenorphine services or to include naltrexone services, a DDAP licensed facility must:

- Submit written notification to DDAP to add buprenorphine or naltrexone as an 'Other Chemotherapy' approach to its license. The request must be submitted to RA-licensuredivision@pa.gov.

A facility may choose to add NTP, Other Chemotherapy, or both services to its license.

All licensed facilities: All facilities must revise their policies and procedures as necessary to ensure compliance with DDAP's regulations for the delivery of medication-assisted treatment, particularly in the following areas:

- 28 Pa Code §§ 709.32(c)(1)-(6) or 711.87(a)(1)-(7) and/or 711.97(a)(1)-(7) Medication control. This entire section applies to medications stored on site, either prescriptions in the client's name or stock medication ordered by the facility or DATA 2000 practitioner.
- 28 Pa. Code §§ 709.83 (a) (5) and 709.93 (a) (2) Medication records. There should be a record of the medication, dose, and name of the prescribing practitioner.

DDAP will review the above applicable policies and procedures along with medication documentation in client/patient records during on-site inspections.

Licenses issued by DDAP after July 1, 2021 will identify the licensed activity, such as outpatient, partial hospitalization, inpatient nonhospital. NTPs will continue to be identified on the license by "Maintenance". "Other Chemotherapy" will continue to identify the use of medications for treatment of SUD for a facility not licensed as an NTP or by an NTP for medications provided separately from their NTP certification. The historic designation of "drug-free" approach will no longer be identified on licenses.

Questions on this Licensing Alert can be sent to the Bureau of Program Licensure, Division of Licensing Inspection at (717)783-8675 or RA-licensuredivision@pa.gov.