

New HHS Practice Guidelines FAQs

How does the 30 patient limit work?

The removal of the training requirement allows you to apply for an X waiver for up to 30 patients. The limit of 30 patients applies only to active patients and is not an annual limit. A patient counts for this limit for the duration of the prescription. For example, an ED physician can write 30 one-week prescriptions weekly and up to 120 one-week prescriptions in a month and still be within the 30 patient limit.

How do I apply for an X waiver?

Go to the [SAMHSA website](#) to apply for the X waiver through the notification of intent (NOI). You will need your state license and DEA registration. When the system asks for Certification Qualification Criteria check “Other” and write in “Practice Guidelines.” (Please note, there have been reports of an error message regarding a form showing completed CME, which will hopefully be fixed. (SAMHSA buprenorphine info center can confirm submission via infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov).

How long will it take to get my X waiver once I apply?

SAMHSA will review applications within 45 days of receipt. Once the application is complete and the application is approved, SAMHSA will email an approval letter. The DEA will follow up with an updated DEA license showing X waiver. The whole process can take two months – a good reason to start the process now.

How do I write a prescription using my X waiver?

Once you have received your X waiver, you write a prescription for buprenorphine for opioid use disorder by indicating your X waiver license number on the prescription. The pharmacist will have no indication if the X waiver license was obtained after 8 hours of training or not. You can e-prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder by indicating your X waiver license number in the “notes to pharmacy” section or NADEAN: x-license number section in the EHR.

For more information, please visit SAMHSA.gov.

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