

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) MATE Act Requirements

Frequently Asked Questions

What recent federal legislation changes were adopted that impact prescribers obtaining a DEA license?

Included in the Omnibus Bill of 2022 was the Restoring Hope for Mental Health Well Being Act, the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act (MAT Act), and the Medication Access and Training Expansion Act (MATE Act).

The legislation, as passed, does many things but particularly relevant is that it repealed the X-waiver, previously required by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for health care practitioners to prescribe Schedule III opioid buprenorphine as medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorder.

While the X-waiver is repealed, the legislation now mandates that anyone who holds a DEA license - including physicians, dentists, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants - will be required to complete a one-time eight-hour course on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders and the safe pharmacological management of pain.

Specifically, the law requires that if a prescriber is licensed to dispense controlled substances in schedule II, III, IV, or V, that provider must undergo the eight-hour training course, effective the first applicable registration/renewal for the practitioner. For physicians, the course is to focus on the “treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders, or the safe pharmacological management of dental pain and screening, brief intervention, and referral for appropriate treatment of patients with or at risk of developing opioid or other substance use disorders.”

For practitioners other than physicians, the course must focus on the “treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders.”

Who can provide the training requirement?

The course can be presented by a multitude of providers, including the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, and any organization approved or accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. Additionally, the training requirement may be met through a “comprehensive curriculum” in an accredited medical school or residency program, physician assistant school, or school of advanced practice nursing.

What is the goal for the new DEA requirement?

"Given the urgency of the nation's overdose crisis, the importance of practitioners receiving training in substance use disorders (SUD) cannot be overstated. Incorporating training on SUD into routine healthcare will enable practitioners to screen more widely for substance use disorders, treat pain appropriately, prevent substance misuse, and engage people in life-saving interventions." - [SAMHSA](#)

What clinicians must fulfill the requirement?

All DEA-registered practitioners, with the exception of practitioners that are solely veterinarians, must verify completion of the eight (8) hours of training regardless of the prescribed medications.

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How many hours of CME credit are required?

Eight (8) credits are required before renewing or applying for a new DEA license after June 27, 2023. This one-time training requirement affirmation will not be a part of future DEA registration or renewals.

When must practitioners complete the training requirement?

Beginning on June 27, 2023, practitioners will be required to check a box on their online DEA registration form - regardless of whether a registrant is completing their initial registration application or renewing their registration - affirming that they have completed the new training requirement.

The deadline for satisfying this new training requirement is the date of a practitioner's next scheduled DEA registration submission - regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration - on or after June 27, 2023.

If a prescriber does not have a DEA license, do they need to complete the training requirement?

There is no new training requirement for physicians who do not have a DEA number.

How often are DEA licenses renewed?

DEA licenses renew every three years.

What clinicians are deemed to have already satisfied this training requirement?

- Physicians who are board-certified in addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry.
- Practitioners who have graduated from their professional school within 5 years of June 27, 2023, or 5 years of their DEA license renewal following June 27, 2023, and completed a curriculum that included at least eight hours of coursework regarding SUD during that time.
- Practitioners who previously took training to meet the requirements of the DATA-2000 waiver to prescribe buprenorphine can count this training towards the 8-hour training requirements.

Does the controlled substances CME requirement for Nebraska licensure count towards the DEA training requirement?

The 3.0 CME hours of controlled substances education required by Nebraska licensure will count towards the DEA requirement if they were provided by an entity that is accredited by the ACCME or CCEPR, or any other group identified by the DEA. (See [DEA letter](#) for more details.)

What if I have completed X-Waiver training?

Practitioners who previously took training to meet the requirements of the DATA-2000 (or X-Waiver) waiver to prescribe buprenorphine can count this training towards the 8-hour training requirements.

What is the difference between MAT and MATE Act?

The Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act updates federal rules to address the public health crisis driven by the opioid epidemic and empowers all health care providers with a standard controlled medication license to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder, just as they prescribe other essential medications.

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Additionally, the MAT Act has eliminated the X-Waiver program. This was effective immediately in December 2022.

The Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act standardizes substance use disorder training to ensure that all prescribers of addictive medications possess baseline knowledge in evidence-based addiction prevention and treatments.

Who can I contact with questions?

- Questions for the DEA? Contact ODLP@dea.gov
- Questions for SAMHSA? Contact infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov