



## CPSM/CPHM/CRNM Process to Obtain OAT Prescribing Approvals or Dispense OAT in Manitoba

### METHADONE PROCESS

#### STEP 1) For Prescribers (Physicians & Nurse Practitioners) Pharmacists skip to STEP 2:

**For CPSM registrants:** Write a letter to the CPSM Registrar, Dr. Ziomek, including:

- Request permission to pursue a methadone prescribing approval for opioid use disorder.
- Your educational background (year of graduation, specialty, etc.).
- Your current work location(s).
- List any established methadone prescribers in your practice.
- The intended target population for treatment (e.g., your own patients, patients from your group practice, pregnant women).
- Projected number of patients needing opioid agonist therapy (OAT) services.
- **IMPORTANT:** Include the names and contact information (email) of **two physician references**. These individuals need to be physicians with whom you have worked or trained under recently and who have knowledge of your work. They will be contacted by the CPSM directly to provide a reference regarding your general clinical competency and character.
- Email the letter to the Medical Consultant of the Prescribing Practices Program (c/o [tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca)) for review and forward to the Registrar, Dr. Ziomek.

**For CRNM registrants:** Complete **Part A** of the [Methadone Prescribing for Opioid Use Disorder Application Form](#) and submit it to [practice@crnm.mb.ca](mailto:practice@crnm.mb.ca).

- Include the names and contact information (email) of **two references**. One of these individuals needs to be your supervising manager. The second reference needs to be a professional with whom you have worked or trained under recently. Both references need to have knowledge of your work. They will be contacted by the CRNM directly to provide a reference regarding your general clinical competency and character.

STEP 2) Pre-register for the two-day training workshop, **Opioid Agonist Therapy 101: An Introduction to Clinical Practice**, offered by the University of Manitoba's CPD Medicine Program. A list of upcoming workshops can be found at the [CPSM OAT Prescriber Training](#) page with a links to register via [www.cpd-umanitoba.com](http://www.cpd-umanitoba.com). Note a registration fee applies.

**STEP 3)** Complete the following **pre-reading PRIOR** to attending the training workshop:

- a) The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health publication, *Making the Choice, Making it Work: Treatment for Opioid Addiction Second Edition* (formerly published as the *Methadone Maintenance Treatment: Client Handbook*), at [Making the Choice, Making it Work](#).
- b) The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba publication, *Manitoba Opioid Agonist Therapy Recommended Practice Manual*, available at [OAT Recommended Practice Manual](#). The chapters are divided into key sections and posted individually to find topics more easily. While many OAT care topics are addressed collectively for overarching guidance, medication-specific recommendations are provided separately as applicable. **Please read all chapters of this manual.**
- c) The College of Pharmacists of Manitoba publication, *Opioid Agonist Therapy Guidelines for Manitoba Pharmacists* (required reading for Pharmacists, optional for Prescribers), at [OAT Guidelines for MB Pharmacists](#).

**STEP 4)** Attend the two-day workshop, Opioid Agonist Therapy 101: An Introduction to Clinical Practice. This includes a review of both methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone.

**STEP 5) Required for Prescribers, optional for Pharmacists – Clinical Training Preceptorship:**

A minimum of four half-days of clinical training, shadowing an experienced methadone provider, are required for a methadone approval. You are to arrange these days yourself with approved supervising prescribers. Complete the four clinics within 6 months of finishing the theoretical training workshop. The four clinics must be arranged with no more than two different supervising prescribers. Contact information for CPSM-approved preceptors is provided at the theoretical training workshop, in the document titled **OAT Approved Preceptorship & Contact Information**. It is also available by email ([tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca)).

**For CPSM registrants:** Once you have completed the clinical training, please email confirmation to [tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca). Include the dates of clinics attended and the name of the supervising physician for each clinic.

**For CRNM registrants:** Complete **Part B** of the [Methadone Prescribing for Opioid Use Disorder Application Form](#) and submit it to [practice@crnm.mb.ca](mailto:practice@crnm.mb.ca).

**For CPhM registrants:** You do not need to provide confirmation of completed clinical training preceptorship to CPhM at this time, but you must document the dates and times and maintain statement(s) of participation for required training for your records. Please see [www.cphm.ca](http://www.cphm.ca) for information on accreditation of clinical training.

**STEP 6) For Prescribers only – Prescribing approval:**

**For CPSM registrants:** Confirmation of completed training for a methadone prescribing approval will be forwarded to Dr. Ziomek on your behalf. You may start prescribing methadone as soon as you receive a letter from Dr. Ziomek confirming your prescribing approval for opioid use disorder.

**For CRNM registrants:** You may start prescribing methadone as soon as you receive notification from CRNM confirming your methadone prescribing exemption for opioid use disorder.

## BUPRENORPHINE/NALOXONE PROCESS

### For Physicians – To obtain buprenorphine/naloxone prescribing approval with a methadone approval:

**STEP 1)** In your letter to the Registrar outlined under **STEP 1** above, include your request for a buprenorphine/naloxone prescribing approval.

**STEP 2)** See **STEP 2** & **STEP 3** below. CPSM will process your application to ensure you meet requirements for buprenorphine/naloxone approval, for final review with the Registrar, Dr Ziomek. Approval for buprenorphine/naloxone may be granted first, while you are pursuing methadone training.

You may start prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone once you receive a letter from Dr. Ziomek confirming your buprenorphine/naloxone prescribing approval for opioid use disorder.

### For Physicians – To obtain buprenorphine/naloxone prescribing approval **ONLY** (without methadone):

**STEP 1)** Write a letter to the CPSM Registrar, Dr. Ziomek, including:

- Requesting a buprenorphine/naloxone prescribing approval for opioid use disorder.
- Your educational background (year of graduation, specialty, etc.).
- Your current work location(s).
- Are there any established buprenorphine/naloxone prescribers in your practice?
- Intended target population for treatment (e.g., your own patients, patients from your group practice, pregnant women).
- Projected number of patients needing opioid agonist therapy services.
- Note any completed training or clinical experience with buprenorphine/naloxone.
- Email the letter to the Medical Consultant of the Prescribing Practices Program (c/o [tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca)) for review to ensure you meet requirements for approval.

The Registrar, Dr. Ziomek, will then review your application for final approval. You may start prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone upon receipt of a formal letter confirming your prescribing approval for opioid use disorder.

**STEP 2)** **Physicians must ensure they have the requisite knowledge, skills, and judgment to prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone as OAT.** The CPSM [Practice Direction for Prescribing Buprenorphine](#) was revised in December 2022. While proof of training is no longer required *prior* to approval, it remains strongly recommended that physicians pursue additional education and seek mentorship as needed to ensure competency in the use of buprenorphine/naloxone to treat opioid use disorder. *Recommended* training can include one of the CPSM-approved courses listed below, preceptorship clinics, and/or mentorship as needed.

- a) [Opioid Agonist Therapy 101: An Introduction to Clinical Practice](#), offered by the University of Manitoba's CPD Medicine Program; or
- b) [Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program](#), offered by the British Columbia Centre on Substance (BCCSU); or
- c) [Addiction Care and Treatment Online Certificate](#), formerly the Online Addiction Medicine Diploma, offered by the BCCSU. Note this course is more of a time commitment for more detailed learning on other substance use disorders beyond opioid use disorder; or

- d) [Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder](#), formerly Buprenorphine-Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence: An Online Course for Front-Line Clinicians, offered by The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH); or
- e) The Buprenorphine Prescribing Course, offered by the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM). Note, CSAM may offer this course in conjunction with their Annual General Meeting (no link available). CPSM typically recognizes this course if offered.

Note that courses with commercial support from the pharmaceutical industry are not endorsed by CPSM. If you are interested in or completed a course not listed, please contact CPSM ([tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca)) to determine if the course will be considered suitable for training.

**Preceptorship**, while optional, remains an efficient way for new prescribers to learn about the nuances of prescribing buprenorphine and the pragmatics of OAT practice, while also building connections within the OAT community. Contact information for CPSM-approved preceptors is available in the document titled **OAT Approved Preceptorship & Contact Information** (contact [tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:tcarter@cpsm.mb.ca) for this list). Physicians seeking preceptorship are responsible for arranging this themselves. The physicians on this list may also be available for mentorship or guidance as needed, particularly for complicated or challenging cases. Seeking mentorship remains strongly encouraged.

**STEP 3)** Review the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba publication, *Manitoba Opioid Agonist Therapy Recommended Practice Manual*, available at [OAT Recommended Practice Manual](#). The chapters are divided into key sections and posted individually to find topics more easily. While many OAT care topics are addressed collectively for overarching guidance, medication-specific recommendations are provided separately as applicable. **Please review all chapters of this manual**, except for the methadone-specific chapters which are optional.

**For Nurse Practitioners – To obtain buprenorphine/naloxone notation ONLY (without methadone):**

**STEP 1)** Complete and obtain a certificate of completion for **one** of the following CRNM-approved courses for prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone:

- a) [Opioid Agonist Therapy 101: An Introduction to Clinical Practice](#), offered by the University of Manitoba's CPD Medicine Program; or
- b) [Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program](#), offered by the British Columbia Centre on Substance (BCCSU); or
- c) [Addiction Care and Treatment Online Certificate](#), formerly the Online Addiction Medicine Diploma, offered by the BCCSU. Note this course is more of a time commitment for more detailed learning on other substance use disorders beyond opioid use disorder; or
- d) [Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder](#), formerly Buprenorphine-Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence: An Online Course for Front-Line Clinicians, offered by The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH); or
- e) The Buprenorphine Prescribing Course, offered by the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM). Note, CSAM may offer this course in conjunction with their Annual General Meeting (no link available). CRNM typically recognizes this course if offered.

**STEP 2)** Review the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba publication, *Manitoba Opioid Agonist Therapy Recommended Practice Manual*, available at [OAT Recommended Practice Manual](#). The chapters are divided into key sections and posted individually to find topics more easily. While many OAT care topics are addressed collectively for overarching guidance, medication-specific recommendations are provided separately as applicable. **Please review all chapters of this manual**, except for the methadone-specific chapters which are optional.

**STEP 3) Nurse Practitioners must ensure they have the requisite knowledge, skills, and judgment to prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone as OAT.** Preceptorship and mentorship, while optional, remain strongly recommended.

Preceptorship is an efficient way for new prescribers to learn about the nuances of prescribing buprenorphine and the pragmatics of OAT practice, while also building connections within the OAT community. Contact [practice@crnm.mb.ca](mailto:practice@crnm.mb.ca) for a list of approved preceptors/mentors, in the document titled **OAT Approved Preceptorship & Contact Information**. Nurse Practitioners seeking preceptorship are responsible for arranging this themselves. The prescribers on this list may also be available for mentorship or guidance as needed, particularly for complicated or challenging cases. Seeking mentorship is strongly encouraged.

Registrants also need to demonstrate continued [Practice Expectations for RN\(NP\)s](#).

**STEP 4)** Submit the [Buprenorphine Prescribing for Opioid Use Disorder Application Form](#) with your course certificate of completion to [practice@crnm.mb.ca](mailto:practice@crnm.mb.ca). You will receive an email from CRNM confirming your buprenorphine prescribing privileges. For more information, please see [Prescribing Controlled Drugs and Substances](#) at [www.crnmb.ca](http://www.crnmb.ca).

#### **For Pharmacists – To dispense buprenorphine/naloxone ONLY (without methadone):**

**STEP 1)** Read the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba publication, *Opioid Agonist Therapy Guidelines for Manitoba Pharmacists* (required reading for Pharmacists), at [OAT Guidelines for MB Pharmacists](#).

**STEP 2)** Review the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba publication, *Manitoba Opioid Agonist Therapy Recommended Practice Manual*, available at [OAT Recommended Practice Manual](#). The chapters are divided into key sections and posted individually to find topics more easily. While many OAT care topics are addressed collectively for overarching guidance, medication-specific recommendations are provided separately as applicable. **Please review all chapters of this manual**, except for the methadone-specific chapters which are optional.

**STEP 3) Pharmacists must ensure they have the requisite knowledge, skills, and judgment to dispense buprenorphine/naloxone as OAT.** It remains strongly recommended that pharmacists pursue additional education as needed to ensure competency in the dispensing of buprenorphine/naloxone to treat opioid use disorder. *Recommended* training can include one of the CPhM-approved courses listed below, preceptorship clinics, and/or mentorship as needed.

- a) [Opioid Agonist Therapy 101: An Introduction to Clinical Practice](#), offered by the University of Manitoba's CPD Medicine Program; or
- b) [Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program](#), offered by the British Columbia Centre on Substance (BCCSU); or

- c) [Addiction Care and Treatment Online Certificate](#), formerly the Online Addiction Medicine Diploma, offered by the BCCSU. Note this course is more of a time commitment for more detailed learning on other substance use disorders beyond opioid use disorder; or
- d) [Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder](#), formerly Buprenorphine-Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence: An Online Course for Front-Line Clinicians, offered by The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH); or
- e) The Buprenorphine Prescribing Course, offered by the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM). Note, CSAM may offer this course in conjunction with their Annual General Meeting (no link available).

You do not need to provide confirmation of completed clinical training to CPhM at this time, but you must document the dates and times and maintain statement(s) of participation (where applicable) for your records. Please see [www.cphm.ca](http://www.cphm.ca) for information on accreditation of clinical training.

**AS AN APPROVED OAT PRESCRIBER YOU WILL:**

**Have access to mentoring/support** by a prescribing peer regarding to your OAT practice.

**Be required to participate in continuing competence requirements** or annual CPD that relates specifically to OAT and/or addiction.

**Be subject to intermittent practice audits** by an experienced OAT prescriber.

May be required to complete an annual OAT **Provider Questionnaire** about your practice profile as administered by your respective College.

Be required to complete an OAT Prescribing **Approval Renewal Questionnaire** every three years to renew your prescribing approval(s).

**Questions? Please contact us**

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