



# 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 members: Write a letter to the CPSM Registrar, Dr. Ziomek, including:

- Requesting permission to pursue a methadone prescribing approval for opioid use disorder.
- Your educational background (year of graduation, specialty, etc.).
- Your current work location(s).
- Are there any established methadone 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.
- **IMPORTANT:** Include the names and contact information of two references (including e-mail addresses if possible).  
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 (Dr. Reinecke) at [MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca) for initial review and she will forward the request to the Registrar, Dr. Ziomek.

For CRNM members: 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 (including e-mail addresses if possible) 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 with 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. A list of upcoming workshops can be found at [Opioid Agonist Therapy 101 Workshop](#) with a link 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 Methadone & Buprenorphine Maintenance: Recommended Practice*, at [Recommended Practice Book](#).
- c) The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba publication, *Manitoba Buprenorphine/Naloxone Recommended Practice Manual*. Please note, this manual is in development; published chapters are available at [Recommended Practice Manual Chapters](#) for review while awaiting the completed manual.
- d) 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. This training starts at 8:20 a.m. on both days. Lunch and coffee breaks are provided.

**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 approved supervising prescribers is provided at the theoretical training workshop, in the document titled **OAT Approved Preceptorship & Contact Information**. It is also available by e-mail ([MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca)).

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

For CRNM members: 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 members: You do not need to provide confirmation of completed clinical training to the College at this time, but you must document the dates and times 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 members: At this point, confirmation of completed training for a methadone prescribing approval will be forwarded to Dr. Ziomek on your behalf. You will be copied on this e-mail. You may start prescribing methadone as soon as you receive a letter from Dr. Ziomek confirming your methadone prescribing approval for opioid use disorder.

For CRNM members: 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)** Complete the steps to obtain a methadone prescribing approval as outlined above.

**Step 2)** In your letter to the Registrar outlined under Step 1, include your request for a buprenorphine/naloxone prescribing approval.

**Step 3)** 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 a methadone approval):**

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

- Requesting permission to pursue 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.
- **IMPORTANT:** Include the names and contact information of two references (including e-mail addresses if possible).
  - 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 [MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca) for initial review and she will forward the request to the Registrar, Dr. Ziomek.

**Step 2)** Complete **one** of the following CPSM approved courses for prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone:

- a) [Opioid Agonist Therapy 101: An Introduction to Clinical Practice](#), offered by the CPSM in partnership with the CRNM and CPhM; or
- b) [Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program](#), offered by the British Columbia Centre on Substance (BCCSU); or
- c) [Online Addiction Medicine Diploma](#), offered by the BCCSU (this course is undergoing re-development). Note this course is more of a time commitment as it includes more detailed learning on other substance use disorders beyond opioid use disorder; or
- d) [Buprenorphine-Naloxone 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). The CPSM typically recognizes this course if offered.

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

Although not required, review of the CPSM publication, *Manitoba Buprenorphine/Naloxone Recommended Practice Manual*, is *strongly recommended* in early practice. Please note, this manual is in development; published chapters are available at [Recommended Practice Manual Chapters](#) for review while awaiting the completed manual.

**Step 3)** At this point, applicants are to declare their choice to pursue either Route A or Route B for preceptorship/mentorship. E-mail [MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca) to advise that you have completed Steps 1 and 2 above and your choice to pursue Route A or B (outlined below) moving forward.

**Route A:** Applicants pursuing Route A must complete a clinical preceptorship consisting of a minimum of one half-day of clinical training shadowing with an experienced provider of buprenorphine/naloxone. You are to arrange this clinic yourself with an approved supervising prescriber. Complete the clinic shadowing within 3 months of finishing the theoretical training workshop. If Route A is pursued, the physician also needs a formal mentor identified for their first year in practice. This mentoring physician must simply be willing to provide you with guidance, as needed, during your first year in OAT practice. Contact information for approved supervising prescribers/mentors is available by writing to [MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca), ask for the document titled **OAT Approved Preceptorship & Contact Information**.

Once you have completed the one half-day of clinical training, please e-mail confirmation to [MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca), including the date of the clinic(s) attended and the name of the supervising physician. Also provide the name of your mentor for your first year of OAT practice. At this point, confirmation of completed training for a buprenorphine/naloxone only prescribing approval will be forwarded to Dr. Ziomek on your behalf. You may start prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone as soon as you receive a letter from Dr. Ziomek confirming your prescribing approval.

**Route B:** Applicants pursuing Route B must have their first five buprenorphine/naloxone starts mentored by a physician licensed in Manitoba who has experience in prescribing this medication for opioid use disorder. After completing Steps 1 and 2 above, e-mail [MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca) to advise that you intend to pursue Route B and you will be granted a *conditional* prescribing approval. This is an agreement that you will seek formal mentorship and document this for the first 5 inductions, while being able to prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone for this process.

Mentorship can be through:

- The Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise (RACE) substance use disorders line.
- Alternatively, the physician may choose to work with another physician with experience prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone, who agrees in writing to serve as a mentor to the physician. Applicants can also e-mail [MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca) for a list of CPSM approved mentors.

The physician and the mentor must both maintain appropriate documentation of the discussion and recommendations. Once mentorship is completed, documentation of the 5 mentored starts must be sent by the mentee to the CPSM via confidential means to [MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:MReinecke@cpsm.mb.ca). The completed mentorship will also be confirmed with the mentor, to ensure the applicant physician can prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone without further supervision. Further support can then be sought as needed after the formal mentorship is completed.

You may start prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone without supervision once you receive a letter from the Registrar confirming your buprenorphine/naloxone prescribing approval.

**As an approved methadone and/or buprenorphine/naloxone prescriber in Manitoba, you will:**

- Have access to mentoring/support by a prescribing peer regarding to your opioid agonist therapy practice.
- Be required to participate in your College's continuing competence requirement or annual CPD that relates specifically to opioid agonist therapy and/or addiction in general.
- Be subject to intermittent practice audits by an experienced methadone and/or buprenorphine/naloxone prescriber.
- Be required to complete an annual Opioid Agonist Therapy Provider Questionnaire about your practice profile as administered by the appropriate college.
- Be required to complete an Opioid Agonist Therapy Prescribing Approval Renewal Questionnaire every three years to renew your prescribing approval(s).

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

**Step 1)** Complete **one** of the following CRNM approved courses for prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone:

- a) [Opioid Agonist Therapy 101: An Introduction to Clinical Practice](#), offered by the CPSM in partnership with the CRNM and CPhM; or
- b) [Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program](#), offered by the British Columbia Centre on Substance (BCCSU); or
- c) [Buprenorphine-Naloxone 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
- d) 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). The CPSM typically recognizes this course if offered.

**Step 2)** E-mail your certificate of completion to: [practice@crnm.mb.ca](mailto:practice@crnm.mb.ca)

**Step 3)** Preceptorship consisting of clinical training of one or more half-days with an experienced buprenorphine/naloxone prescriber or mentorship is not required for Nurse Practitioners to

prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone only. However, it is helpful to shadow a clinic and/or seek a mentor for support, particularly in early practice. Registrants do need to demonstrate [Practice Expectations for RN\(NP\)s](#) and keep records of how they are maintaining these Practice Expectations as it relates to buprenorphine/naloxone prescribing.

**Step 4)** 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, optional for Prescribers), at [OAT Guidelines for MB Pharmacists](#).

**Step 2)** Read the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba publications, *Manitoba Methadone & Buprenorphine Maintenance: Recommended Practice*, at [Recommended Practice Book](#) and the *Manitoba Buprenorphine/Naloxone Recommended Practice Manual*. Please note, this manual is in development; published chapters are available at [Recommended Practice Manual Chapters](#) for review while awaiting the completed manual.

**Step 3)** Complete **one** of the following CPhM approved courses:

- a) [Opioid Agonist Therapy 101: An Introduction to Clinical Practice](#), offered by the CPSM in partnership with the CRNM and CPhM; or
- b) [Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program](#), offered by the British Columbia Centre on Substance (BCCSU); or
- c) [Buprenorphine-Naloxone 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
- d) 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). The CPSM typically recognizes this course if offered.

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

**If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact:**

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