



NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

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The Role of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in MAT

New data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that more than 93,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States last year. This is a nearly 30% increase from an estimated 72,151 deaths in 2019. In Nevada, there has been a similar rise in drug overdose deaths from December 2019 (715) to December 2020 (916), a 28% increase.¹

Pharmacists and technicians are essential to combating the opioid epidemic and play a major role in ensuring that patients have access to lifesaving medications. Patients in Nevada have reported experiencing the following barriers when trying to obtain medications for opioid use disorder (OUD):

- Medications are not available when the patient goes to fill a prescription
- Patients are told that their prescription has not been received
- Pharmacies impose fill restrictions or refuse to fill
- Pharmacies state that prior authorization is needed, despite a December 2020 *Updated Nevada Medicaid Informational Bulletin on Medications and Services for Substance Use Disorder* clarifying that these medications do not require prior authorization
- Confusion around policies and practices leading to misinformation

A pharmacist **may** fill a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) prescription for buprenorphine from a certified practitioner. The MAT prescription must contain all required elements of a controlled substance prescription per Nevada Administrative Code 453.440(1). Additionally, the certified practitioner must include on each prescription the following information for OUD treatment medications:

- Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 waiver identification number (X-Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number)
- DEA registration number

Pharmacists can use the [Buprenorphine Pharmacy Lookup](#) to verify a practitioner's certification to prescribe and dispense buprenorphine for the treatment of OUD. Pharmacists and pharmacies are not required to have any credentials for dispensing these medications.²

The following are some steps that pharmacists may take to assist patients in obtaining MAT prescriptions in a timely fashion:

- Call the prescribing physician for all prescriptions that cannot be filled and provide a detailed description of the issue
- Clarify prior authorization requirements if required by an insurance company

Thank you for being part of the solution in fighting the opioid crisis for the residents of Nevada!

References

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm#notes>
2. <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/pharmacist-verification>

Pharmacist Renewal

Your Nevada State Board of Pharmacy registration will expire on October 31, 2021. You may renew your license online starting on September 1, 2021.

If this is your **first time** renewing your registration using the online portal, complete the following to renew your pharmacist registration:

1. Use Google Chrome (PC or Mac) or Safari (Mac)
2. Disable all pop-up blockers on your computer or device
3. Visit <https://online.nvbop.org/#>
4. Select "Personal License Information/Renewal"
5. Select "Click here to Register"
6. Enter all required information and click "Submit Registration"
7. You will receive a temporary password in an email with instructions to change the temporary password before you can log in and complete the online renewal of your registration
8. Once you have completed steps 1-7, log in to the portal

9. Click on “Renew” and complete all requirements of the renewal
10. After you successfully complete steps 1-9, you will receive an email with your new registration

If you have renewed using the online portal in the past, complete the following to renew your pharmacist registration:

1. Use Google Chrome (PC or Mac) or Safari (Mac)
2. Disable all pop-up blockers on your computer or device
3. Visit <https://online.nvbop.org/#>
4. Select “Personal License Information/Renewal”
5. Log in to the portal
6. Click on “Renew” and complete all requirements of the renewal
7. After you successfully complete steps 1-6, you will receive an email with your new registration

Your username is the email that you originally used to register in the portal. If you have forgotten your username or password, click on “Forgot Username” or “Forgot Password” on the login page, respectively, for instructions on how to recover or change your username or password.

Please contact the Board office at pharmacy@pharmacy.nv.gov if you have any questions or experience any issues with the registration or renewal process.

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