

# Nurse Practitioner Authority to Prescribe Buprenorphine-Naloxone and/or Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder

On October 20, 2017 Buprenorphine-Naloxone (Suboxone) and Methadone were designated by CRNNL Council as drugs Nurse Practitioners (NPs), who meet specified education and practice requirements, may prescribe for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) deemed appropriate for a specific client. NPs must complete **ALL** of the identified education and practice requirements to prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD as specified below and receive authorization from CRNNL.

## Requirements for Nurse Practitioners to Prescribe Buprenorphine-Naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

Nurse Practitioners who prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD must have the individual competence (necessary knowledge, skills, and judgement), including the following:

- Be currently licensed as an NP with authority (without restrictions) to prescribe controlled drugs and substances (CDS).
  - Participate in the Provincial Prescription Monitoring Program.
  - Complete training for the Tamper Resistant Prescription Drug Pad Program and adhere to the ongoing practice requirements of the program: [http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/prescription/hcp\\_tamperresistantdrugpad.html](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/prescription/hcp_tamperresistantdrugpad.html)
  - Be registered with the Pharmacy Network (i.e., have access through the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information HEALThe NL viewer) and review a patient's current medication profile before prescribing buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone.
- Complete specified education and practice requirements to obtain competence in prescribing buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone:
  - Complete the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) *Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Course* or the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program (or a course/educational program deemed equivalent by CRNNL).
  - Complete the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador's (CPSNL's) *Introduction to Safe Prescribing: Opioids, Benzodiazepines, and Stimulants Course* available through [MDcme.ca](http://MDcme.ca).
  - **NPs intending to prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone)** must complete the online Suboxone education program on the prescribing of buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) (6 modules)- available at [www.suboxonecme.ca](http://www.suboxonecme.ca) or a course/educational program deemed equivalent by CRNNL.
  - Attend a minimum of two days of clinical training (or a combination of equivalent hours) with an experienced practitioner/team in the treatment of OUD and the provision of buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone.
  - Be knowledgeable of all CPSNL documents related to OUD (e.g., *Methadone Maintenance Treatment Standards and Guidelines*).
  - Be knowledgeable of all Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board (NLPB) documents related to OUD (e.g., *Standards for the Safe and Effective Provision of Opioid Agonist Maintenance Treatment*).
  - Have access to urine drug screening and/or other forms of screening as deemed appropriate for testing of drugs for possible abuse/misuse.
- As a part of ongoing continuing education in opioid dependence and addiction disorders, it is **recommended** that NPs complete the CAMH *Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Certificate*

*Program* or a course/educational program deemed equivalent by CRNNL.

- As new requirements for Opioid Use Disorder treatments and medications evolve, NPs must ensure they meet the additional requirements to prescribe these medications (e.g., any required education to prescribe Sublocade, diacetylmorphine, etc.).
- If the NP is away from the practice setting for an extended period of time, the NP must reflect on what educational requirements are needed to ensure the NP has the individual competence (necessary knowledge, skills, and judgment) to prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone)/Methadone.
- NPs may wish to consult with the Provincial ODT Centre of Excellence (COE) regarding OUD and Opioid Agonist Therapies as deemed appropriate.

### Application Process Requirements:

Before being granted the authority to prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD by CRNNL, NPs must:

- Complete the Authority to Prescribe Buprenorphine-Naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder application form and submit to CRNNL. NPs can access the application form on the [CRNNL website](#).
  - The application form will include a section where:
    - The NP requests to be granted authority to prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD in their practice setting with rationale for the request.
    - The employer provides written confirmation of employer support and policies for the NP to prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD in their practice setting. The NP must have policies to guide their practice related to prescribing Suboxone and/or Methadone and care of clients receiving Opioid Agonist Therapy.
    - The applicable practitioner/team indicates the NP successfully completed two days of training in prescribing buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD.
- NPs will be required to submit certificate(s) of completion of required courses to CRNNL.
- Once the application(s) is reviewed and deemed to have met all requirements, the NP will be granted authority by CRNNL to prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD.
- The NP will receive a letter from CRNNL confirming authority to prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD has been granted.
- A CRNNL website notification of authorized prescribers will be posted under 'Member Search'.

**In addition, NPs who are practising outside of an RHA must follow ALL of the requirements detailed above and:**

- Declare that they have access to a mentor who has expertise in substance use disorders, addictions management, and/or opioid use disorder (OUD) and has expertise in prescribing of buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD.
- Declare they have policies to guide their practice related to the prescribing of buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone and care of clients receiving buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) and/or Methadone for OUD.

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