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## **Special Notice: HHS Changes to Buprenorphine Prescribing Guidelines Postponed Until Further Notice**

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On January 14, 2021, HHS announced forthcoming Practice Guidelines for the Administration of Buprenorphine for Treating Opioid Use Disorder. These new practice guidelines would have eliminated the requirement that physicians obtain a federal waiver (sometimes referred to as an "X-waiver") to prescribe buprenorphine.

According to SAMHSA, the announcement was made prematurely. Therefore, the Guidelines previously announced cannot be issued at this time. However, HHS and ONDCP are committed to working with interagency partners to examine ways to increase access to buprenorphine, reduce overdose rates and save lives.

The statement from SAMHSA can be accessed here:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/statement-regarding-xwaiver.pdf>

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