



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 26, 2017

Dear Provider:

Decades of research has shown that maintenance with buprenorphine (i.e., “Suboxone” or “Subutex”) helps to reduce HIV and hepatitis transmission, improves adherence to other medications, and increases opportunities for meaningful engagement with supportive services – all while providing protection from experiencing a fatal opioid overdose. This is especially pertinent given the dangerous potency of the current illicit drug supply, which has resulted in dramatic increases in fatal overdoses throughout the state.

The NYSDOH Buprenorphine Access Initiative’s goal is two-fold, (1) to increase the number of certified health care practitioners prescribing buprenorphine, and (2) to improve patient access to buprenorphine at a range of setting in addition to primary care settings. These settings include harm reduction programs, Federal Qualified Health Centers, emergency departments, OB-GYNs, housing services and other community-based organizations, with a focus on engaging vulnerable populations including younger opioid users and women of child-bearing age.

As clinicians, you play a critical role in addressing this public health crisis. Our aim is to better understand the availability of buprenorphine providers throughout the state. Targeted efforts are being made to increase the number of providers where there is greatest need, while supporting existing providers in expanding their scope of services. This initiative is committed to supporting new and existing buprenorphine providers through targeted education, development of resources and provider support services for buprenorphine providers and hosting buprenorphine waiver trainings.

Enclosed with this message is a link to a brief 5-minute online survey where you can tell us more about your prescribing practices and technical assistance needs.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYSprovidersurvey>

If you have any questions, please contact the Buprenorphine Access Initiative at buprenorphine@health.ny.gov or 1.800.692.8528. All results of this survey are for internal use by NYSDOH AI only and will not be displayed on any public directory.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYSprovidersurvey>

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.

Sincerely,

Johanne E. Morne, MS
Director
AIDS Institute