



ECHO Idaho Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) Waiver Training Information

ECHO Idaho is partnering with the Providers Clinical Support System ([PCSS](#)), led by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry and a large coalition of national professional organizations, including DATA 2000 organizations, the American Psychiatric Association and the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine, to provide free Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) waiver trainings. In this two-part training, participants first take a live (in person or via Zoom videoconferencing) four-hour training through ECHO Idaho and then complete a four-hour online self-study portion through PCSS. Once both portions of the training are completed, eligible providers can apply for their DATA 2000 Waiver to prescribe and dispense opioid dependency medications.

Live Portion Training Logistics

- How does the training work? Is it all online?
 - The training is done in a half-live and half-online format. The first four hours of the training are live, and you can join this portion either in person or via videoconferencing (Zoom) from a computer or smartphone. If you join via videoconferencing, you must have a webcam turned on and focused on you for the entire training so we can verify your attendance. The second portion of the training consists of a four-hour online self-study portion you complete on your own schedule. At the end of the online modules, you must pass an exam with 75% or higher and complete a survey from PCSS in order to receive your certificate of completion.
- How long is the training?
 - The live portion of the training is four hours followed by four hours of self-paced online modules. Providers are eligible to apply for their MAT waiver (DEA-X number) after meeting this eight-hour training requirement. Physician assistants (PAs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs - NP/CNM/CNS/CRNA) must complete [16 additional hours of online training](#) before they can apply for their waiver. APRNs and PAs do not have to take the trainings in any particular order. However, they both must complete 24 hours of specialized training (the eight-hour ECHO Idaho/PCSS training plus a 16-hour training) in order to become eligible to apply for their waiver.
 - See [PCSS](#) for more information and to access FAQs relating to the eight-hour and 24-hour requirements, or contact pcss@aaap.org for assistance.
- I missed a portion of the live training. What happens now?
 - You must attend all four hours of the live training. If you miss any part of the live training, you are not yet eligible to apply for the waiver or receive the link to the online modules.
- When is the training?
 - Visit our website at uidaho.edu/echomat to find our schedule of upcoming MAT waiver trainings. If our training dates do not work in your schedule, there are [other training options](#) (including all online trainings) available through PCSS.



- How much does the training cost?
 - The training is free through PCSS and ECHO Idaho. The additional 16-hour MAT waiver course is also offered at no cost through [PCSS](#).
- Do I need to register?
 - Registrations are preferred because it helps coordinate day-of logistics. However, we do accept day-of attendees.
- How do I register?
 - Complete the RSVP form at www.uidaho.edu/echomat. You will receive an email confirmation once your registration is received.
- What do I do if I registered but can no longer attend?
 - Email echoidaho@uidaho.edu or call 208-364-4569 to let the event coordinator know you are unable to attend. Then, watch our website for the next training date!
- How do I attend the first half of the waiver training (the live portion)?
 - Join the first half via videoconference and webcam using a free software called Zoom from a computer or smartphone. If you are new to Zoom, contact us at echoidaho@uidaho.edu or 208-364-4569 and we will assist you. You can also join in person at the University of Idaho Water Center Building, room 212, 322 E Front St, Boise, ID 83702. Parking information and other logistics will be included in your registration confirmation email.
- I am a PA or APRN. Can I take this training?
 - Yes! You are eligible to earn the MAT waiver through this training. NPs, CNMs, CRNAs, CNSs, and PAs must complete 24 hours of specialized training before applying for their waiver. The ECHO Idaho/PCSS MAT waiver training counts toward the eight-hour requirement. After completing the eight-hour requirement, you must complete a 16-hour course, which can be found at [PCSS](#), or contact pcss@aaap.org for assistance. **The eight-hour and 16-hour trainings can be taken in any order.**
- Can residents and students take the training?
 - Medical residents can complete the MAT waiver training at any point in their studies. Once you complete the eight-hour training, you will receive a certificate of completion that does not expire. Medical residents are eligible to apply for their waiver **after** they have their DEA number and an unrestricted medical license.
 - PA and ARNP students can complete the MAT waiver training at any point in their studies. Once you complete the eight-hour training, you will receive a certificate of completion that does not expire. Students are eligible to apply for their waiver **after** they have their DEA number.



- I am not a MD/DO/PA/APRN, so I cannot earn a MAT waiver but would still like to attend the training. Can I do that?
 - Yes! We welcome everyone who wants to audit the training for their own professional development, even those who are not eligible or interested in earning a waiver. Pharmacists, counselors, and health educators working in MAT clinics have all audited past trainings. Additionally, providers who already have their MAT waiver are welcome to attend this training as a refresher course.
- Do I need to complete a sign-in/sign-out sheet?
 - You do not need to complete an attendance sheet. ECHO Idaho staff will complete this on your behalf.

Online Portion

- Where do I find the online portion of the training?
 - You must complete all of the live portion of the training to be eligible to get the online portion of the training (for both waiver and non-waiver seekers). A few days following this training, you will receive an email from PCSS with the link to the modules to the email address you listed on your registration. (Use only this one email address for your entire waiver training.) **This email will not come from ECHO Idaho; it will likely be from an EXAMPLE@aaap.org email account.** Please check your spam/junk folder if you do not receive an email with the link. If you have checked your spam folder and have not received an email for the online modules within one week of completing the live portion of the training, please email pcss@aaap.org with a CC to echoidaho@uidaho.edu.
 - [APRNs](#) and [PAs](#) can complete the additional 16 hours of training at any time. However, you *must complete* the live portion of the training before you can access the remaining four hours of online modules to complete the eight-hour training requirement.
- Can I take the online modules if I am not seeking a waiver?
 - Yes. Anyone who completes all the live training will receive the link to complete the online modules.
- Are the online modules also free?
 - Yes. There is no cost for any part of this training through ECHO Idaho and PCSS.
- How long do I have to complete the online modules?
 - You are encouraged to complete the online modules and pass the exam within 90 days of receiving email follow-up instructions from PCSS.
- I did not get a link to the online modules. What do I do?
 - Look in your spam/junk folder to check for the email containing the link. Please note that the email comes from a representative at PCSS, likely an email such as EXAMPLE@aaap.org, rather than from ECHO Idaho staff.
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- If you have checked your spam folder and have not received an email for the online modules within one week of completing the live portion of the training, please email pcss@aaap.org with a CC to echoidaho@uidaho.edu.

Continuing Education (CE and CME) Credit Information

- How do I receive continuing medical education (CME) credits for the live portion of the training?
 - You will receive an email from wwami-ce@uidaho.edu within ten business days of the training with a CE certificate for your records. Note: Partial CE credit **will be** awarded in 0.25 increments for the live portion of the training.

The University of Idaho, WWAMI Medical Education Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The University of Idaho, WWAMI Medical Education Program designates this live activity for a maximum of 4.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

- You will also receive a CME post-session feedback survey three to six months after the training.
- How do I receive continuing education (CE) credits for the online portion of the training?
 - Once you complete the training, you will receive an email from PCSS containing your certificate of completion for the full eight-hour training as well as your CE certificate for the online portion. Note: Partial CE credit **will not be** awarded for the online portion.
- If I do not apply for the waiver or am not waiver eligible, can I still receive CE credits?
 - Yes, you can receive CE credits commensurate to the extent of your participation in the live portion (partial credit available in 0.25 increments). The online portion provides four hours of CE credits, but all components of the online training must be completed in order to be awarded credit. Partial credit will not be awarded for the online training.

Applying for the MAT Waiver

- Who is waiver eligible?
 - Providers that are waiver eligible include:
 - Physician (MD, DO)
 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN: NP, CNS, CRNA, CNM)
 - Physician Assistant (PA)



- If I am an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant, do I have to do additional training before applying for the waiver?
 - Yes. ☹️ To qualify for the waiver, APRNs and PAs must complete a total of 24 hours of training. This means that in addition to the eight hours earned through the ECHO Idaho/PCSS MAT waiver training, you will need an additional 16 hours of training. There are many ways to complete the additional 16 hours of training, including free online opportunities at [PCSS](#) or through the [American Society of Addiction Medicine](#).
- Does my certificate of completion for the training expire?
 - No, your certificate of completion does not expire. You can apply for the waiver any time after you receive your certificate of completion.
- I never got my certificate of completion. What do I do?
 - If you have completed the live portion of the training, all of the online modules and post-module exams, and the PCSS survey and have not received your certificate of completion, email pcss@aaap.org with a CC to echoidaho@uidaho.edu.
- I completed the in-person and online portion of the MAT waiver training and have my completion certificate. How do I apply for my MAT waiver?
 - Before you begin, make sure you have your DEA number, state medical license number and your training certificate of completion.
 - Go to the [Buprenorphine Waiver Notification page](#) and answer all of the questions.
 - AAAP is considered the accrediting agency.
 - For the date of completion, you will put the date of the live (ECHO) portion of the MAT training.
 - You can also submit your waiver notification via SAMHSA's mobile app MATx. [Click here](#) to learn more about MATx.
 - After you complete the waiver notification, you will email your training completion certificate to csatbupinfo@dsgonline.com (as directed on the waiver notification home screen) and to infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov (as directed by PCSS).
 - Once SAMHSA has received all your documentation, the process may take up to 45 days for review and approval. If approved, you will receive notification via email.
 - For more information, contact the SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment's Buprenorphine Information Center at 866-287-2728, or email infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov.
- How will I know if my waiver notification was approved?
 - If approved, you will receive an email from bupinfo@dsgonline.com with the subject line "Buprenorphine Information Center/Waiver Notification Information" that confirms your waiver and includes your prescribing identification number. DEA regulations require this number to be included on all buprenorphine for opioid use disorder.



- I have completed the MAT waiver notification form but am still waiting for approval from SAMHSA. Am I allowed to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder prior to SAMHSA approval?
 - While possible, we do not recommend it. As stated on the SAMHSA website, “To receive permission to provide treatment while a notification is under review, check the box ‘New Notification, with the intent to immediately facilitate treatment of an individual (one) patient’ on the notification form. Checking the ‘immediate’ box is only one of three requirements a practitioner must meet in order to start a patient on treatment, and immediate treatment is limited to one patient per form submitted. Each form must have a different submission date. Other requirements the applicant must address include:
 - Meeting ‘in good faith’ the criteria for obtaining a waiver such as having a valid medical license, valid Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration, qualified or completion of eight hours of qualifying training.
 - Contacting CSAT's Buprenorphine Information Center at 866-BUP-CSAT (866-287-2728) to verify that the notification form has been received and to notify CSAT of the practitioner’s intent to begin treating one patient.
 - Since the practitioner will not have a unique identifying number, pharmacists may question prescriptions received under this provision. If additional information is needed, pharmacists may contact SAMHSA at 866-BUP-CSAT (866-287-2728) or by sending an email to infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov.

General MAT Waiver Information

- Is the MAT waiver the same as the bupe waiver?
 - The MAT waiver is commonly known by several names:
 - Bupe (Buprenorphine) waiver
 - DATA (Drug Addiction Treatment Act) waiver
 - X-waiver (for the X that will be added to your DEA license when you receive the waiver)
 - DATA 2000 waiver (named as such because 2000 is the year the Act was passed)
 - MAT waiver: MAT stands for Medication for Addiction Treatment, previously known as Medication Assisted Treatment
- I have my MAT waiver. How many patients can I treat?
 - You can treat 30 patients the first year you have your waiver.
 - After one year, you can apply for a patient limit increase by using the [buprenorphine waiver notification form](#) to treat up to 100 patients. There are no additional training requirements to apply for a patient limit increase.
 - After you hold the 100-patient waiver for one year, you can apply for a 275-patient waiver with the [buprenorphine waiver notification form](#) if you have additional credentialing or work in a qualified practice setting, review question 2 of [this FAQ document from the American Society of Addiction Medicine \(ASAM\)](#).
 - Do not prescribe to the higher patient limit until you receive SAMHSA approval.



- Some practitioners may immediately treat up to 100 patients if they hold certain board certifications or provide the medication in a qualified practice setting.
 - “Certain board certifications” include a board certification in addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry by the American Board of Addiction Medicine, the American Board of Medical Specialties, or the American Society of Addiction Medicine.
 - As defined by SAMHSA, a qualified practice setting is a setting that:
 - Provides professional coverage for patient medical emergencies during hours when the practice is closed;
 - Provides access to case management services for patients, including referral and follow-up services for programs that provide or financially support medical, behavioral, social, housing, employment, educational or other related services;
 - Uses health information technology if it is already required in the practice setting;
 - Is registered for their state prescription drug monitoring program, where operational, and in accordance with federal and state law; and
 - Accepts third-party payment for some services, though not necessarily for buprenorphine-related services and not necessarily all third-party payers.

- Does my patient prescribing limit automatically increase every year?
 - You must complete the [buprenorphine waiver notification form](#) to apply for an increase to your patient limit. There are no additional training requirements to apply for a patient limit increase.
 - After you complete the form, you will receive a confirmation email that your request has been received. You must reply to this email to complete the submission process, and you will receive a second notification submission acknowledgement by an emailed letter.

- I am approved to prescribe to 275 patients. Are there any other requirements I must meet?
 - You must submit an annual report to SAMHSA, which is due before the anniversary of your waiver renewal date. If SAMHSA does not receive this report, your 275-patient limit is automatically rescinded to the 100-patient level. You must also coordinate with anyone beyond the 100-patient limit to direct him or her to a new treatment resource because of your reduced patient capacity.
 - You must practice according to nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines and have a diversion control plan. Additional information can be found on the [ASAM website](#).

- If I am a PA/APRN prescribing buprenorphine, does my supervising physician also have to have their MAT waiver?
 - For PAs, according to the Idaho State Board of Medicine, “The Supervising Physician to a PA with a MAT waiver needs to have a MAT waiver, too. Each PA needs to practice within the scope of his or her Supervising Physician, and that physician would need to have the waiver (trained) to know if the PA is practicing safely.”



- You can access more info on the practice details of each state for [PAs here](#) and for [APRNs here](#).
- The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 also addresses this subject [here](#).
- Do I have to renew my waiver?
 - Only prescribers approved to treat 275 patients must renew their waiver. To renew the patient limit increase after the three-year approval term, practitioners must submit a renewal request, which includes the same information that is required for an initial patient limit increase request. The renewal request must be submitted at least 90 days before the expiration of the previous approval term. If SAMHSA does not reach a final decision on the renewal request before the expiration of the previous approval term, the approval term will be extended until SAMHSA reaches a final decision.
- Can I lose my buprenorphine waiver?
 - Yes, SAMHSA reserves the right to deny a waiver renewal for prescribers approved to treat 275 patients. In the event of a renewal, you must stop prescribing buprenorphine immediately; there is no grace period for the transfer of patients.
- Who counts as a buprenorphine patient?
 - Patients receiving any formulation of buprenorphine for treatment of an opioid use disorder, including implantable and injectable buprenorphine, count toward the patient limit. These patients can be in different locations.
- I am licensed in more than one state. Do I have to apply for my buprenorphine waiver in all of those states?
 - No. The buprenorphine waiver is federal and just gives you a second DEA number that starts with an X.
- If the patient seeking care for their opioid use disorder is another physician, are there reporting requirements to the Idaho Board of Medicine?
 - **According to the Idaho State Board of Medicine, merely seeking treatment for OUD is not a basis to report.** Providers need to report either themselves or other providers (MD, DO or PA) only if they believe there has been a violation of the Medical Practice Act. (A provider with OUD still seeing patients is not necessarily a violation of the Medical Practice Act.) If a provider believes that their OUD causes them to be unable to provide safe patient care or care that does not meet the community standard of care, then that provider must report him or herself to the Board. Failure to do so may lead to further discipline for the failure to report. Please note that the Board has a Disabled Physician Act within its Practice Act that gives the Board a non-disciplinary way to work with physicians or PAs who are disabled by their substance use issues. Similarly, if a licensee becomes aware that another licensee is unable to provide safe care, meet the community standard of care or has otherwise violated the Medical Practice Act, then



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that licensee has a duty to report that other licensee to the Board or possibly be disciplined for failure to do so despite knowing of the Practice Act violation. For more information, contact the [Idaho State Board of Medicine](#).

- Are there tools that can help me establish an effective MAT practice?
 - ECHO Idaho sessions on [Opioid Addiction and Treatment](#) provide a wealth of information and real-time connection to other clinicians and providers across Idaho. You can also find recordings of past sessions and a list of ongoing resources.
 - SAMHSA has created [MATx](#), a mobile app that helps practitioners provide evidence-based, effective care for patients with opioid use disorder.
 - PCSS provides a [mentoring program](#), which includes a [discussion forum](#), [one-on-one mentoring](#) and the ability to [ask a clinical question](#).

- How many providers in Idaho are MAT waived?
 - Up-to-date prescriber numbers can be found at [suboxone.com](#) and [samhsa.gov](#). It is possible that a provider has their MAT waiver but is not listed on either website.
 - As of September 16, 2019, Idaho had 437 MAT-waivered providers, but it is unclear how many use their waiver.
 - 356 can treat up to 30 patients
 - 244 MD/DO
 - 79 APRN
 - 33 PA
 - 66 can treat up to 100 patients
 - 45 MD/DO
 - 19 APRN
 - 2 PA
 - 15 can treat up to 275 patients
 - 15 MD/DO

- What if my question was not answered in this very helpful document?
 - Additional MAT waiver information can be found on the [SAMHSA website](#).
 - If you have questions about accessing the online portion of the ECHO Idaho/PCSS MAT waiver training or retrieving your certificate, please email pcss@aaap.org.
 - Ask us! Please email your question to echoidaho@uidaho.edu or call 208-364-4569.

Sponsor Information



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