

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 31-18

INTRODUCED BY: MedChi's Public Health Committee
MedChi's Student Section
Baltimore City Medical Society

SUBJECT: Waiver of Buprenorphine Training for Physicians

1 Whereas, Medication- Assisted Treatment¹(MAT) is the use of medications, in combination with
2 counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to be treatment of
3 substance use disorders; and
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5 Whereas, research shows that a combination of medication and therapy can successfully treat these
6 disorders; and
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8 Whereas, for some people struggling with addiction, MAT can help sustain recovery; and
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10 Whereas, MAT is primarily used for the treatment of addiction to opioids, such as heroin and
11 prescription pain relievers that contain opiates; and
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13 Whereas, the medications used in MAT are approved by the Food and Drug Administration; and
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15 Whereas, MAT programs are clinically driven and tailored to meet each patient’s needs; and
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17 Whereas, the number of individuals potentially in need of MAT is estimated to be 24,887² opioid
18 users, 18,916 of which are heroin users; and
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20 Whereas, the MAT treatment capacity in Baltimore City is only 17,587; and
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22 Whereas, there is a capacity deficit of 7,300; and
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24 Whereas, to gain an X DEA license, physicians must complete 8 hours of training (gaining up to 9
25 AMA CME credits); and
26
27 Whereas, that training process is a barrier to expanding provider coverage for buprenorphine
28 prescribing; and
29
30 Whereas, in France there has been success in decreasing opioid overdose deaths by 79% four years

¹ <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment#medications-used-in-mat>

² http://www.bhsbaltimore.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/OTP-Capacity-Report_01_27_17_FINAL.pdf

1 after waiving buprenorphine prescribing requirements of physicians³; and

2
3 Whereas, reducing training requirements would not eliminate the need to obtain a DEA waiver,
4 and therefore be it

5
6 Resolved, that MedChi explore gaining the appropriate waivers to provide shortened trainings for
7 physicians interested in becoming licensed to prescribe buprenorphine.
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10 At its meeting on September 22, 2018, the House of Delegates referred Resolution 31-18 to the
11 Board of Trustees.

³<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2018/04/how-france-reduced-heroin-overdoses-by-79-in-four-years/558023/>