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

Whereas, Medication- Assisted Treatment\(^1\) (MAT) is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to be treatment of substance use disorders; and

Whereas, research shows that a combination of medication and therapy can successfully treat these disorders; and

Whereas, for some people struggling with addiction, MAT can help sustain recovery; and

Whereas, MAT is primarily used for the treatment of addiction to opioids, such as heroin and prescription pain relievers that contain opiates; and

Whereas, the medications used in MAT are approved by the Food and Drug Administration; and

Whereas, MAT programs are clinically driven and tailored to meet each patient’s needs; and

Whereas, the number of individuals potentially in need of MAT is estimated to be 24,887\(^2\) opioid users, 18,916 of which are heroin users; and

Whereas, the MAT treatment capacity in Baltimore City is only 17,587; and

Whereas, there is a capacity deficit of 7,300; and

Whereas, to gain an X DEA license, physicians must complete 8 hours of training (gaining up to 9 AMA CME credits); and

Whereas, that training process is a barrier to expanding provider coverage for buprenorphine prescribing; and

Whereas, in France there has been success in decreasing opioid overdose deaths by 79% four years later.

\(^1\) [https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment#medications-used-in-mat](https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment#medications-used-in-mat)

after waiving buprenorphine prescribing requirements of physicians; and

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

Resolved, that MedChi explore gaining the appropriate waivers to provide shortened trainings for physicians interested in becoming licensed to prescribe buprenorphine.

At its meeting on September 22, 2018, the House of Delegates referred Resolution 31-18 to the Board of Trustees.