

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 8-19

INTRODUCED BY: Opioid Task Force

SUBJECT: Support for Buprenorphine Training to Encourage More Buprenorphine
Providers

Whereas, the MedChi Opioid Task Force recognizes the value in Buprenorphine use in medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to help people reduce or quit their use of heroin or other opiates, such as pain relievers like morphine; and

Whereas, research has shown that buprenorphine in any formulation is effective for the treatment of chronic pain; and

Whereas, unlike methadone treatment, which must be performed in a highly structured clinic, buprenorphine is the first medication to treat opioid dependency that is permitted to be prescribed or dispensed in physician offices, significantly increasing treatment access; and

Whereas, health officials seek to double the Buprenorphine providers in the state of Maryland; and

Whereas, in order to begin prescribing buprenorphine, eligible physicians must submit a waiver notification form documenting the physician's qualifying information to the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). Once the notification is received, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) issues an identification number, known as a waiver or "X," which is to be included on all buprenorphine prescriptions, in addition to the physician's regular DEA number; and

Whereas, an additional requirement for physicians includes a limit on the number of patients each provider can treat at any one time with buprenorphine. Previously, this number was 30, however, Congress passed bill H.R. 6344 in December 2006 that allows certified physicians, who have been prescribing for at least 12 months, to treat up to 100 patients; and

Whereas, there is an 8 hour specialized training requirement on buprenorphine therapy for prescribers to obtain a Buprenorphine prescribing waiver; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi support, encourage, and facilitate the training of both current and additional Buprenorphine prescribers by providing outreach, advertising, and hosting Buprenorphine trainings.

As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on April 28, 2019.