

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division
Guidance Document

Title: How to Remove the Identification Number (X Number) Assigned to a DATA-waived Practitioner's DEA Registration

Summary: This guidance document addresses how a Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA)-waived practitioner may request removal of the X Number assigned to the provider's DEA registration when they no longer intend to administer, dispense or prescribe buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder and do not need the waiver.

Activity: Requesting Removal of the X Number Assigned to a DATA-waived Practitioner's DEA Registration

To Whom it Applies: DATA-waived DEA Registrants

Question: How does a DATA-waived practitioner remove the X Number assigned to a DEA registration when they no longer intend to administer, dispense, or prescribe buprenorphine and no longer need the DATA-waiver?

Answer: DATA-waived practitioners who no longer intend to administer, dispense, or prescribe buprenorphine products for opioid use disorder, may submit a written request to the [DEA Registration Unit](#) to remove the X Number from their DEA registration. DATA-waived practitioners are physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and all other categories of qualified mid-level practitioners. These qualifying practitioners or qualifying other practitioners are defined at [21 U.S.C. 823\(g\)\(2\)\(G\)\(iii\)](#) and [823\(g\)\(2\)\(G\)\(iv\)](#), respectively. The request should include the registrant's name, DEA registration number, address of the registered location, and a description of why they are making this request.

DATA-waived practitioners should be aware that removal of the X Number from the DEA registration does not rescind, or provide notification to U.S. Health and Human Services, Substance and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA](#)) to rescind, the practitioner's DATA-waiver. Thus, the requesting provider is also directed to contact SAMHSA to request cancellation of the provider's authority. *See* [21 U.S.C. 823\(g\)\(2\)](#). Providers may initiate this process by sending an email to InfoBuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov.

In general, practitioners who dispense narcotic drugs to individuals for maintenance treatment or detoxification treatment shall obtain annually a separate registration for that purpose. [21 U.S.C. 823\(g\)\(1\)](#). The requirement to obtain a separate registration is waived for practitioners who are prescribing buprenorphine so long as they apply for, and obtain, a waiver from SAMHSA. [21 U.S.C. 823\(g\)\(2\)\(B\)](#); [21 CFR 1301.28\(d\)\(1\)](#). Once the practitioner obtains a waiver from SAMHSA, DEA assigns the X Number to the practitioner. [21 U.S.C. 823\(g\)\(2\)\(D\)\(ii\)](#); [21 CFR 1301.28\(d\)\(1\)](#). DATA-waived practitioners who maintain an X Number, but do not prescribe controlled substances to individuals for maintenance or

detoxification treatments in the scope of their practice, should consider surrendering their X Number as it may result in wasted time and resources for both registrants and DEA.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or Department of Justice policies.

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