

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division
Guidance Document

Title: DEA-Practitioner Training or Continuing Education Requirement for Registration

Summary: This is a revision of a previously approved and posted Q&A, published on October 5, 2020. (EO-DEA182). This updated Q&A provides information regarding the training requirement¹ included in Division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2023.² All practitioners, who are not solely a veterinarian, must attest to satisfying the training, credentialing, or educational requirements identified in section 1263 of Division FF of the CAA in order to obtain a new or renewal DEA registration. The deadline for attesting to this training requirement is the date of a practitioner’s next scheduled DEA registration submission – regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration – on or after June 27, 2023. Additional information regarding the training requirement is noted below. This revised Q&A will replace the current Q&A posted on DEA’s [website](#) (EO-DEA-182) and will be sent via email to all DEA-registered pharmacies and practitioners.

Activity: Updated Guidance on DEA-Practitioner Training or Continuing Education Requirement for Registration

To Whom It Applies: All DEA-Registered Practitioners who are not solely veterinarians

Background: On December 29, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023).³

DATA-waived practitioners were required by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to complete training with regard to treating patients with OUD. By striking [21 U.S.C. 823\(g\)\(2\)](#), section 1262(a)(1) of Division FF of the CAA, 2023 eliminated additional requirements for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, and V for maintenance or detoxification treatment, which required qualifying practitioners to submit a notification of intent of the practitioner to begin dispensing the drugs or combination products to patients for maintenance or detoxification, instead of registering as a narcotic treatment program.

Section 1263(a) of Division FF of the CAA, 2023 also amended the CSA by adding subsection (l) to [21 U.S.C. 823](#), which requires training for prescribers. Specifically, the new [21 U.S.C. 823\(l\)\(1\)](#) provides that, “[a]s a condition on registration under this section to dispense controlled substances in schedule II, III, IV, or V, the Attorney General shall require any qualified practitioner, beginning with the first applicable registration for the practitioner to meet” certain conditions in order to treat patients with OUD. Section 1263(a) defines the term “qualified practitioner” as a practitioner who (i) is licensed under State law to prescribe

1 21 U.S.C. 823(l)(1).

2 Pub. L. No. 117-328, div. FF, tit. I(B), ch. 6, § 1263(a), 136 Stat. 4459 (2022).

3 Pub. L. No. 117-328, 136 Stat. 4459 (2022).

controlled substances, and (ii) is not solely a veterinarian, under [21 U.S.C. 823\(l\)\(4\)\(B\)](#). The term “first applicable registration” means the first registration or renewal of registration by a qualified practitioner on or after June 27, 2023, under [21 U.S.C. 823\(l\)\(4\)\(A\)](#).

Therefore, any qualified practitioner can treat patients for OUD with buprenorphine. This includes prescribing, administering, or dispensing buprenorphine with their DEA registration *as long as there are no state regulations that prohibit (or limit) them from participating in this activity*.

While Section 1262 of the CAA, 2023 removed the federal requirement for practitioners to obtain a DATA-Waiver registration to treat OUD patients with buprenorphine, Section 1263 requires qualified practitioners to complete Substance Use Disorder (SUD) training before applying for a controlled substance registration or renewing their DEA registration.

In accordance with section 1263(a) of the CAA 2023, DEA notified qualified practitioners of the required training described at [21 U.S.C. 823\(l\)\(1\)\(A\)\(iv\)-\(v\)](#) and [\(1\)\(B\)\(i\)-\(ii\)](#).⁴ DEA met the March 27, 2023 deadline and provided this electronic notification on March 27, 2023, and it is posted on DEA’s [website](#).

Question: Does DEA require that a practitioner take special classes, or some type of continuing education, before they can apply for, or reapply for, a DEA registration?

Answer: Individual states may have educational requirements in order to obtain and maintain a valid license in that state. DEA requires that all state licensing requirements be met in order to obtain a DEA registration in that state. [21 U.S.C. 823\(g\)\(1\)](#) and [\(4\)](#).

In addition, all practitioners, who are not solely veterinarians, when applying for a new registration or renewing their registration, must satisfy either the training, credentialing or educational requirements identified in section 1263 of the CAA 2023.⁵ Please see the Q&A that DEA posted on its [website](#) in reference to the training, credentialing, or educational requirements, and related attestation. Practitioners can find additional information on SAMHSA’s website at [Recommendations for Curricular Elements in Substance Use Disorders Training | SAMHSA](#).

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.

EO-DEA182R1, DEA-DC-076, September 21, 2023.

⁴ 21 U.S.C. 823(l)(2)(B).

⁵ Pub. L. No. 117-328, div. FF, tit. I(B), ch. 6, § 1263(a), 136 Stat. 4459 (2022).