



JAN 13 2006

Dear Colleague:

In an effort to expand office-based medication-assisted treatment capacity, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) is encouraging physicians registered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to elect to be listed on the SAMHSA Physician Locator, [http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov/bwns\\_locator/](http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov/bwns_locator/). The SAMHSA Physician Locator is an on-line resource designed to assist potential patients and/or their families, State governments, and medical and addiction treatment providers in finding information on physicians who can prescribe buprenorphine (Subutex® and Suboxone®) for treatment of opioid dependence.

CSAT compiles the information in the SAMHSA Physician Locator from its information on physicians who have met qualifications under the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000), and who have consented to disclose their names, address, and phone numbers on the Locator.

According to our records, you did not consent to disclose information on the Physician Locator at the time you applied for certification. In light of several recent developments, you may want to reconsider your earlier decision.

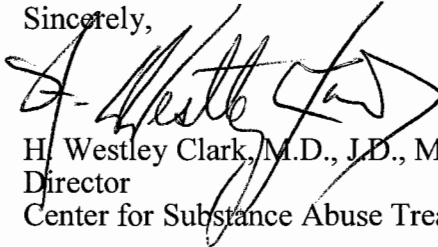
1. Effective August 2, 2005, the physician group practice limit was eliminated by Public Law 109-56. As a result, physicians in group practices, just like physicians who are not in group practices, are permitted to treat up to 30 patients each at any given time. Many physician group practices are now able to significantly expand the number of patients they may treat.
2. SAMHSA has provided grant funding to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, in collaboration with the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine and the American Psychiatric Association, to develop and operate the Physician Clinical Support System (PCSS), a national mentoring network for physicians treating opioid dependence. The PCSS is designed to assist practicing physicians, consistent with the DATA, in incorporating into their practices the treatment of prescription opioid and heroin dependent patients using buprenorphine. PCSS also provides a valuable resource to physicians in enabling consultation with an addiction treatment expert, who can provide guidance on specific patient treatment issues, including induction.
3. Several states throughout the country now provide Medicaid reimbursement for Subutex® and Suboxone® and many Prescription Drug Plans under Medicare Part D are covering these medications. In addition, we understand that health plans are increasingly adding Buprenorphine to their formularies.
4. The number of certified physicians continues to grow. To date, there are over 6,300 certified physicians. These increases provide patients with more options for treatment, but only when patients can locate physicians in their respective communities.

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The alarming increase over the last few years in the misuse of prescription pain relievers across the U.S. has increased the need for certified physicians to be listed on the Locator as the interest in and need for office based medication-assisted treatment has grown.

If you would like to be listed on the Locator, please review the attached information sheet. If you have any questions regarding the Physician Locator please contact Nicholas Reuter at 240-276-2716 or [Nicholas.reuter@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:Nicholas.reuter@samhsa.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,



H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., CAS, FASAM  
Director  
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

Enclosures:  
Information Sheet on  
SAMHSA Physician Locator  
PCSS brochure

## SAMHSA Physician Locator Information Sheet

The SAMHSA Buprenorphine Physician Locator Web site is publicly accessible at [http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov/bwns\\_locator/](http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov/bwns_locator/).

The Locator Web site lists the names and practice contact information of physicians with DATA waivers who agree to be listed on the site. The Locator Web site is used by the treatment-seeking public and health care professionals to find physicians with DATA waivers. The Locator Web site additionally provides links to many other sources of information on substance abuse. No physician listings on the SAMHSA Buprenorphine Physician Locator Web site will be made without the express consent of the physician.

To change your consent status, check the box below, print your name, sign, then fax back to 240-276-1630.

### CONSENT TO RELEASE IDENTIFYING INFORMATION TO SAMHSA BUPRENORPHINE PHYSICIAN LOCATOR WEB SITE

I consent to the release of my name, primary address, and phone number to the SAMHSA Buprenorphine Physician Locator Web site.

Physician Name:

DEA Registration Number:

Other information (new address, telephone number, etc.)

Signature