

## Authorization Expanded to Qualified Certified Nurse Practitioners for the Prescribing of Buprenorphine to Treat Opioid Addiction

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) was signed into law on July 22, 2016. One of the important provisions in this act expands access to substance use treatment services and overdose reversal medications by extending the privilege of prescribing buprenorphine in office-based settings to qualifying Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced that Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNPs) can train and apply to become DATA-waiver practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine to treat opioid addiction, also referred to as medication assisted treatment or MAT. The CNP must complete 24 hours of required training. Qualifying CNPs can apply for the DATA-waiver beginning in early 2017. The 24 hour waiver training is available for free through 2017. The Society of Addiction Medicine and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners have partnered to offer the additional 16 hours of required education (in addition to the 8 hours now offered on the SAMHSA website). More information can be found at the following websites. You may also contact the Director of Advanced Practice at the Mississippi Board of Nursing (601-957-6259) if you have additional questions.

[https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs\\_campaigns/medication\\_assisted/cara-learning-objectives-11017.pdf](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/medication_assisted/cara-learning-objectives-11017.pdf)

<https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/qualify-nps-pas-waivers>

<https://www.aanp.org/>