



Michigan Pain Clinic (MPC) Closures in Michigan



This resource is meant to provide an overview of options for providers who are seeing an increase in patients who have lost access to their healthcare provider and were prescribed a controlled substance medication.

For Providers

As a primary care prescriber treating other chronic health conditions, you are in a key position to also prescribe medications for OUD. You can do this the same way you practice shared decision-making to help patients manage asthma, diabetes, or hypertension. Clinical prescribing guidelines, including avoiding rapid or forced tapering of opioids and benzodiazepines, are helpful when making clinical decisions. Please refer to the resources listed below and consider the following best practices:

- Continue opioid therapy for patients experiencing transitions in care.
- Develop a patient-centered, individualized care plan.
- Use caution when tapering opioid or benzodiazepine therapy.
- Document patient care decisions.
- Prescribe buprenorphine when appropriate.
- Co-prescribe naloxone.

Screen for opioid use disorder (OUD) and refer to treatment as needed. [Medication-assisted treatment \(MAT\)](#) combined with counseling and behavioral therapies has been proven to treat OUD. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides information on [MAT](#).

Additional Resources

- [A Webinar for Providers: What Do I Do with Inherited Patients on Opioids? \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Prescribe with Confidence | FDA](#)
- [Training: Tapering | Overdose Prevention | CDC](#)
- [HHS Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics](#)
 - Published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), for advice on safe and effective tapering practice: As stated in the HHS Guide under Risks of Rapid Opioid Taper, "Unless there are indications of a life-threatening issue, such as warning signs of impending overdose, HHS does not recommend abrupt opioid dose reduction or discontinuation".

Provider Support Contacts

For general information, providers can contact SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) at [1-866-287-2728](tel:1-866-287-2728) or email providersupport@samhsa.hhs.gov. For clinical questions or mentoring, contact pcssnow.org.