



Interior Health
Every person matters

May 14, 2021

To: Interior Health physicians; nurse practitioners; Divisions of Family Practice
From: Dr. Paul Carey, Medical Director, Mental Health & Substance Use, Interior Health
Dr. Leslie Lappalainen, Addiction Medical Lead, Interior Health

Re: New campaign encourages opioid use disorder treatment

As part of our efforts to address the overdose emergency Interior Health is launching an awareness campaign to encourage people with opioid use disorder to access Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT). OAT is the first-line recommended treatment for opioid addiction, with many years of evidence supporting its effectiveness.

While the number of clinicians prescribing OAT continues to grow, there is an ongoing need for additional prescribers in communities across the region. Education to become an OAT prescriber is available through the [Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program \(POATSP\)](#). Completing this course is the first step in the authorization process for clinicians wishing to prescribe OAT.

This comprehensive training program is geared towards OAT prescribers, including both physicians and nurse practitioners, however, all health-care providers (e.g., nurses, pharmacists, social worker, counsellors, etc.) can benefit from the online education modules.

The process to meet the requirement for full oral OAT prescribing involves:

- 8-10 hour online course (which includes both MainPro+ and MOC CME credits)
- Completion of a workbook with clinical cases
- 2 half-days of in-person preceptorship and any additional learning as needed

As always, Interior Health Substance Use Services and the BC Centre for Substance Use are here to support you in addiction treatment. To call the 24/7 [Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line](#) and speak to an Addiction Medicine Specialist, call 778-945-7619.



For more information about OAT education opportunities and available funding to support physicians completing OAT prescriber training contact ihsubstanceuseservices@interiorhealth.ca.

For general information regarding OAT and to learn more about the awareness campaign, visit the campaign's [web page](#).

If you are already an OAT prescriber and are interested in receiving OAT stickers to display in your clinic space, contact ihsubstanceuseservices@interiorhealth.ca.

Thank you.