



Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner

Gotham Center
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Dear Health Care Professional:

In 2017, more New Yorkers died from drug overdose than from suicides, homicides, and motor vehicle crashes combined. There were 1,487 drug overdose deaths in New York City (NYC); of these more than 80 percent involved an opioid. We can prevent these deaths. As part of HealingNYC, the City's opioid overdose prevention initiative, the New York City Health Department works with health care providers and communities to expand access to buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder (OUD).

Buprenorphine decreases overdose deaths, reduces drug use, prevents relapse, and enables patients to reengage in employment, school and family relationships. Like other medications for chronic health conditions, buprenorphine can be integrated into primary care and can help your patients lead healthier lives. Despite these benefits, not enough patients know about or use buprenorphine; many New Yorkers with OUD who could benefit from buprenorphine do not receive it. As an NYC health care provider, you can change this by offering buprenorphine to your patients with OUD.

Make these changes to help improve the health of your patients and the city:

- Educate patients about buprenorphine and that it is one of the most effective treatments for OUD.
- Obtain your waiver to prescribe buprenorphine.
- Prescribe buprenorphine to patients to decrease overdose risk and improve quality of life.
- If already prescribing, increase the number of patients with OUD you treat with buprenorphine to expand treatment access in NYC.

This **Buprenorphine Action Kit** includes clinical tools and resources for you and educational materials for your patients. To access the materials online, visit nyc.gov/health and search for **buprenorphine action kit**.

Thank you for your dedication to the health of New Yorkers and for your partnership in reversing this epidemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Kunins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hillary Kunins, MD, MPH, MS
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner
Division of Mental Hygiene
New York City Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene