



MATE Act: Training requirements, opioid resources

Q What is the MATE Act, and how does it impact OMSs?

A The Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act mandates most practitioners – including OMSs – licensed to prescribe controlled substances or who hold DEA licenses to complete eight hours of coursework on substance use disorders.

Beginning June 27, regardless of initial registration or renewal, practitioners must check a box on their online DEA registration form affirming they have completed the training.

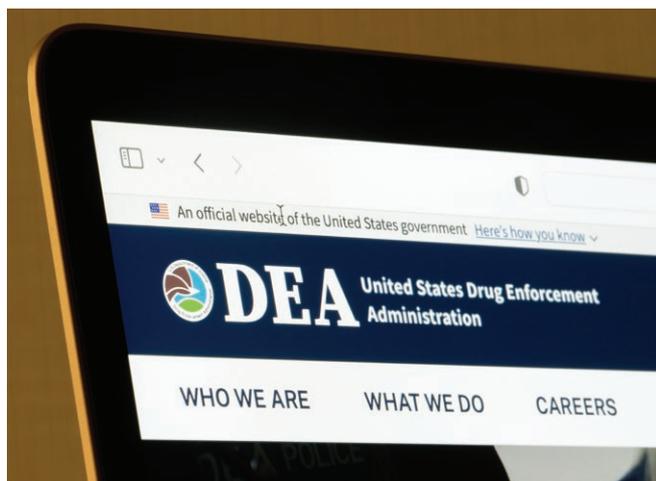
Additional information is available at [AAOMS.org/member-center/member-news/dea-announces-mate-act-training-requirement](https://www.aaoms.org/member-center/member-news/dea-announces-mate-act-training-requirement).

Q What notable points should be considered to help ensure all training requirements of the MATE Act are met?

A To ensure training requirements are met, consider these important points:

- Training on management of patients with substance use disorders qualifies.
- Past training counts toward meeting this requirement.
- Approved sources for training include AAOMS and the ADA.
- Training could be in various formats – including classroom, seminars or virtual. Reading journal articles is unlikely to qualify.
- The eight hours of training do not have to be taken in a single setting.
- For OMSs who graduated within five years prior to June 27, 2023, completion of curricula – including the eight hours of training – would satisfy the requirement.

Additional information is available at [DEA.gov](https://www.dea.gov) and [SAMHSA.gov](https://www.samhsa.gov).



Q Where can I find training to satisfy MATE Act requirements?

A Training already required by many states may satisfy the requirements of the MATE Act. Some of the qualified courses provided by AAOMS's online CE library include:

- Dentoalveolar Plenary: Postoperative Pain Control
- Safety and Dignity Front and Center: The Opioid Epidemic in the Time of COVID-19
- The Prescription Opioid & Heroin Crisis: An Epidemic of Addiction
- The Heroin Epidemic: Prescription Drug Abuse and Your OMS Practice
- IV Sedation of the Substance Abuse Patient
- Substance Use Disorders and Anesthesia Management

AAOMS is in the process of developing additional courses. All of AAOMS's webinars and on-demand courses related to the MATE Act will be offered at no charge to all AAOMS members through the end of 2023.

To view all qualifying online CE courses available through AAOMS, visit [AAOMS.org/CEonline](https://www.aaoms.org/CEonline), or visit [ADA.org](https://www.ada.org) to explore additional opportunities.

The ADA also provides online CE offerings that may qualify.

Q What other steps are being taken to help address and educate on the opioid crisis?

A In 2021, HHS announced an Overdose Prevention Strategy. The FDA identified four priorities to address the opioid crisis and sustain long-term recovery outcomes, including:

- Supporting primary prevention by eliminating unnecessary initial prescription drug exposure and inappropriate prolonged prescribing.
- Encouraging harm reduction through innovation and education.
- Advancing development of evidence-based treatments for substance use disorders.
- Protecting the public from unapproved, diverted or counterfeit drugs presenting overdose risks.

Additionally, in 2022 the CDC updated the Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain that:

- Provides evidence-based recommendations to clinicians who provide care to patients with pain.

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- Emphasizes that shared decision-making by patients and clinicians is critical.
- Aims to ensure equitable access to effective, informed, individualized and safe pain management that improves patients' function and quality of life.

The following agencies also offer resources to educate and address the opioid crisis:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse: NIDA.NIH.gov
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): SAMHSA.gov

Q If my practice is aware of someone struggling with substance use disorder, is there somewhere to refer them to for assistance?

A SAMHSA offers a national helpline and an online treatment locator. These free, confidential services provide 24/7 365-days-a-year treatment referral and information services for individuals and families facing mental health and/or substance use disorders. Services include:

- SAMHSA National Helpline: 800-662-4357
- FindTreatment.gov

Learn more at SAMHSA.gov.

Q What resources are available to help educate patients on safe disposal and overdose prevention?

A The FDA has a free toolkit called Remove the Risk – available in English and Spanish – that includes materials to raise awareness of dangers of keeping unused opioid pain medicines in the home and provides information about safe disposal.

Additionally, the DEA hosts National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – typically occurring in April and October. Through these events, the public can safely remove unneeded medications from their homes to prevent misuse.

Learn more at FDA.gov and DEA.gov/TakeBackDay. ■