

# Queensland Opioid Treatment Program

## Prescriber Types- December 2020



### Level 1 - Full QOTP prescriber (existing)

This prescriber can prescribe the full suite of pharmacotherapy options (methadone, buprenorphine-mono, including long-acting injectable preparations and buprenorphine-naloxone) for the treatment of opioid dependence following successful completion of the QOTP prescriber course and approval being given by Queensland Health.

#### Training Pathway (existing)

Successful completion of a self-directed online interactive e-learning package (including exam), followed by a clinical placement in a Hospital and Health Service QOTP clinic shadowing an experienced Level 1 Full QOTP prescriber.

### Level 2 – Specified QOTP prescribers

#### Interim supervised QOTP prescriber (new)

This prescriber (a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner on rotation in Hospital and Health Alcohol and Other Drug Service (HHS-AODS)) can prescribe the full suite of pharmacotherapy options (methadone, buprenorphine-mono, including long-acting injection preparation, and buprenorphine-naloxone) for the treatment of opioid dependence, for an interim period of up to 3 months while under the supervision of an experienced Level 1 Full QOTP prescriber, following approval being given by Queensland Health.

#### Training Pathway (existing)

Successful completion of the full QOTP prescriber training during the interim approval period (3 months).

#### Buprenorphine-naloxone only QOTP prescriber (new)

This prescriber (a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner) can prescribe sublingual buprenorphine-naloxone only for the treatment of opioid dependence to a maximum of 20 patients following successful completion of the online Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) only Prescriber Course and approval being given as a buprenorphine-naloxone only QOTP prescriber by Queensland Health.

#### Training Pathway (new)

Successful completion of the Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) only Prescriber Course; a self-directed online interactive e-learning package (including exam), focusing on the essential information for safe and appropriate prescribing of buprenorphine-naloxone in the treatment of opioid dependence, including regulatory requirements.

## Shared Care QOTP prescriber (existing)

This prescriber (a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner) can prescribe a suite of pharmacotherapy options (including methadone, buprenorphine-mono and buprenorphine-naloxone; but excluding long-acting injection buprenorphine) for the treatment of opioid dependence, with recommended training and approval of shared care arrangements (on a case-by-case basis) by Queensland Health. Shared care arrangements are between an approved HHS-AODS QOTP prescriber and an approved community Shared Care QOTP Prescriber willing to co-manage a patient who has stable opioid dependence treatment. The HHS-AODS prescriber will co-ordinate the arrangement. The community-based medical practitioner or nurse practitioner must apply for Shared Care QOTP prescriber approval to Queensland Health. When approved, ongoing QOTP treatment is managed by the Shared Care QOTP prescriber. The patient remains registered with the HHS-AODS which will resume management if the patient de-stabilises.

### Training Pathway (existing)

No mandatory training is required; however self-directed learning is highly recommended.

## Contacts:

13S8INFO (13 7846) or [QOTP@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QOTP@health.qld.gov.au)

For more information visit <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/medicines/drugs-of-dependence/qld-opioid-treatment>