

MATOD Clinical Placement Program

Gain confidence with managing opioid dependence

Program Guide for GPs



**Area Four
Pharmacotherapy
Network**
Southern & Eastern
Metropolitan
Melbourne

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An Australian Government Initiative

South Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network

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Program Purpose

This MATOD Clinical Placement Program (the Program) is designed to build the skills and confidence of GPs to provide Medication Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD)¹ to patients in the community who are living with an Opioid Use Disorder.

Eligibility

- GPs who are accredited to prescribe MATOD²
- GPs currently working in primary care in metropolitan Melbourne

¹ MATOD refers to the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder using methadone or buprenorphine.

² Accreditation to prescribe MATOD is awarded through the completion of approved MATOD training and is granted by the Victorian Department of Health. Accreditation is required in order to prescribe buprenorphine for more than 10 patients and methadone for any number of patients for the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder.

Key Benefits

Hands-on, real-world learning

Put your knowledge into practice in a supported learning environment

Remuneration for loss of clinical time

Be paid for your time undertaking placements, coursework, and mentoring sessions (conditions apply)

Build on prior MATOD training and experience

This program will meet you where you are at in your MATOD practice

Guaranteed exposure to MATOD prescribing

Work alongside an experienced MATOD prescriber at a practice that specialises in MATOD services

Select a program length to suit you

Short program (4 weeks) or full program (12 weeks)

Fit the program into your working week

A manageable number of hours per week

Choose from a selection of expert host practices across southern and eastern metropolitan Melbourne

Attractive RACGP CPD points

The Program is accredited for a minimum of 40 points for the 2020-2022 triennium. Points available under the new Medical Board of Australia annual CPD requirements (2023 onwards) are to be confirmed.

Program Overview

This Program will provide you an opportunity to build on your MATOD knowledge through hands-on, guaranteed exposure to real-world MATOD prescribing in a supported and wrap-around learning environment.

This program is delivered in two stages:
Level One, over 4 weeks; Level Two, over 8 weeks

Level One can be undertaken as a standalone program, if desired. Completion of Level One is a pre-requisite for participation in Level Two.

LEVEL ONE



Clinical Placements



Mentoring meetings



Online Coursework

LEVEL TWO



Clinical Placements



Mentoring meetings

Level One (4 weeks)

Level One will provide you an opportunity to observe patient consultations (as an “observer”) with an experienced MATOD prescriber (referred to as a “Supervisor”) while patients receive clinical care for Opioid Use Disorder. Level One can be undertaken as a standalone program.

Level One Clinical Placements are held once a week for a 4-hour period over 4 weeks. You will receive remuneration for time spent undertaking these 4-hour placements, in recognition of your potential loss of clinical time.

Placements will be held at a host practice which has been selected for their expertise in Addiction Medicine as well as their on-site multi-disciplinary primary care teams that support the Alcohol and other Drug (AOD) needs of their patient cohort. You will be able to choose from a selection of host practices throughout southern and eastern metropolitan Melbourne.

You will also be provided with additional learning opportunities to further consolidate your MATOD prescribing knowledge:

- Mentoring meetings with an experienced MATOD prescriber. The “mentor” may be the Supervisor or an alternative prescriber. Mentoring meetings may be one-on-one or delivered in a group setting and may attract RACGP CPD points, if RACGP Peer Group Learning requirements are met³.
- Online coursework intended to build on prior knowledge gained through MATOD accreditation training. This coursework can be completed at your own pace and is designed to be manageable with regards to complexity and length. Coursework is accredited for 40 RACGP CPD points for

the 2020-2022 triennium. Equivalent points will be available under the new Medical Board of Australia annual CPD requirements (2023 onwards), the details of which are to be confirmed.

You will be eligible to receive remuneration for time spent undertaking mentoring and coursework, referred to as a “Study Scholarship”, if you meet specific criteria as outlined in the “Remuneration” section of this Program Guide.

Further information about each Program activity in Level One is outlined below.



Clinical Placements



Mentoring meetings



Online Coursework

³ See RACGP website for requirements: <https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/vic/family-violence-gp-education-program/training-pathway-options>. The Area 4 Pharmacotherapy Network will endeavour to enable participants to receive RACGP CPD points for this activity where possible.

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

4-hour Clinical Placements at a GP practice that specialises in MATOD

Once per week

Over 4 weeks

Key benefits

- Observe patient consultations with an experienced MATOD prescriber
- Real-world learning
- Guaranteed exposure to MATOD prescribing
- Fit the placement into your working week – a manageable 4 hours per week
- Choose from a variety of host practices throughout southern and eastern metropolitan Melbourne

MENTORING MEETINGS

1-hour mentoring meetings with an experienced MATOD prescriber

Once per week

Over 4 weeks

Key benefits

- A dedicated time outside of business hours to discuss cases, learnings and related topics to consolidate your knowledge
- Remuneration for time spent undertaking mentoring (conditions apply – see Remuneration section this Program Guide)
- Virtual or face-to-face
- RACGP CPD points available, if RACGP Peer Group Learning requirements are met

ONLINE COURSEWORK

6-hours of coursework consisting of online modules and workbook activities which can be completed at your own pace

Key benefits

- Accredited for RACGP CPD points
- Remuneration for time spent undertaking coursework (conditions apply – see Remuneration section this Program Guide)

Level Two (8 weeks)

Level Two will provide you an opportunity to transition with ease and comfort to prescribing MATOD and providing clinical care to patients living with Opioid Use Disorder in a supported learning environment. Completion of Level One is a pre-requisite for participation in Level Two.

Level Two Clinical Placements are held once a week for a 4-hour period over 8 weeks.

During these placements, you will undertake patient consultations independently as a “locum” GP at the same practice that was attended during Level One.

You will have ready access to on-site support and/or supervision from an experienced MATOD prescriber (i.e., your Supervisor). The type of support and supervision provided will depend on your individual needs, level of experience and confidence.

You will be remunerated for your time at an increased rate as compared to Level One, acknowledging that patients are now formally in your medical care.

You will also be provided with additional learning opportunities to further consolidate your MATOD prescribing knowledge; mentoring meetings that commenced during Level One will continue during Level Two. As in Level One, the “mentor” may be the Supervisor or an alternative prescriber. Mentoring meetings may be one-on-one or delivered in a group setting and may attract RACGP CPD points if RACGP Peer Group Learning requirements are met.

Further information about each Program activity in Level Two is outlined below.



CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

4-hour Clinical Placements at a GP practice that specialises in MATOD

Once per week

Over 8 weeks

Key benefits

- Hands on, real-world learning - put your skills and knowledge into practice by working as a locum GP at your host practice
- Transition to prescribing MATOD independently with ease and comfort, with ready access to support and/or supervision from an experienced MATOD prescriber
- Generous hourly remuneration

MENTORING MEETINGS

1-hour mentoring meetings with an experienced MATOD prescriber

Once per fortnight

Over 8 weeks

Key benefits

- A dedicated time outside of business hours to discuss cases, learnings and related topics to consolidate your knowledge
- Remuneration for time spent undertaking mentoring (conditions apply – see Remuneration section this Program Guide)
- Virtual or face-to-face
- RACGP CPD points available, if RACGP Peer Group Learning requirements are met

Remuneration

Clinical Placements

Remuneration for time spent undertaking Clinical Placements is available for both Level One and Two of the Program.

Activity	Notes	Remuneration per hour (excl. GST)	Total hours per Activity	Subtotal Remuneration per Activity (excl. GST)
Level One Clinical Placements	4 hours per placement per week over 4 weeks	\$125/hr	16 hours	\$2000
Level Two Clinical Placements	4 hours per placement per week over 8 weeks	\$150/hr	32 hours	\$4800
Total Remuneration for Level One and Two (12-week) Program				\$6800

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Mentoring and coursework

Remuneration for time spent undertaking mentoring and coursework (referred to in this Program as a “Study Scholarship”) is available for those GPs who:

- Complete both Level One and Level Two of this Program, and
- Commit to increasing their MATOD patient load by a minimum of 5 patients over the 12-month period following their completion of the Program (N.B. While this cannot be formally monitored or regulated, it is requested that participants receiving a Study Scholarship make a concerted effort to accept MATOD patients that present to their practice).

With this Study Scholarship, 14 hours of study is subsidised to cover 8 hours of mentoring (8 x 1 hour sessions) and a maximum of 6 hours of online coursework at a rate of \$100 per hour.

Activity	Notes	Remuneration per hour (excl. GST)	Total hours per Activity	Subtotal Remuneration per Activity (excl. GST)
Mentoring meetings	Level One: 1 hour per meeting per week over 4 weeks	\$100/hr	4 hours	\$400
	Level Two: 1 hour per meeting per fortnight over 8 weeks	\$100/hr	4 hours	\$400
Online coursework	Remuneration for maximum of 6 hours spent undertaking online coursework	\$100/hr	6 hours	\$600
Total Remuneration for Level One and Two (12-week) Program				\$1400

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I start?

As soon as possible – please contact us to arrange a start date.

How long will this Program be available for?

The program will be available only until 30 June 2023. This is a unique opportunity – don't miss out!

How do I choose a host practice?

You will be provided with a list of practices in southern and eastern metropolitan Melbourne which will host Clinical Placements. Host practices have been selected for their expertise in Addiction Medicine as well as their on-site multi-disciplinary primary care teams that support the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) needs of their patient cohort. We will ask you to submit your preferences and we will do our best to pair you with your preferred practice.

Will I retain any MBS billings during the program?

No. During Level One you will be observing patient consultations that are being undertaken by the experienced MATOD prescriber (the Supervisor), much like a medical student. During Level Two you will be remunerated at an attractive hourly rate for your time spent undertaking patient consultations as a “locum” GP, as outlined in the Remuneration section of this Program guide.

Can Level One and Level Two of the Program be undertaken as standalone programs?

You can undertake Level One as a standalone program, if you choose. Completion of Level One is a prerequisite for participation in Level Two. However, it is recommended that both levels are completed to receive the full benefits of the Program. Additionally, the “Study Scholarship”, as outlined in the Remuneration section of this Program Guide, is only available to GPs who complete both levels of the Program.

Are the mentoring meetings a mandatory component of the program?

Yes. Mentoring has been shown to be highly beneficial to doctors new to working in the AOD treatment space⁴. These mentoring meetings allow a dedicated time to discuss cases, learnings, challenges and related topics outside of the business operational hours and GP practice setting. They provide a structured time for these discussions that will not be possible during patient consultations or business hours. These meetings can be attended face-to-face or online for flexibility and accessibility.

⁴Alford DP, Carney BL, Jackson AH, Brett B, Bridden C, Winter M, Samet JH. Promoting addiction medicine teaching through functional mentoring by co-training generalist chief residents with faculty mentors. *Subst Abus.* 2018;39(3):377-383. doi: 10.1080/08897077.2018.1439799. Epub 2018 Apr 5. PMID: 29452056; PMCID: PMC6128783.

Is the online coursework a mandatory component of the program?

Yes. The online coursework is intended to build on prior knowledge gained through MATOD accreditation training. It is designed to be manageable with regards to complexity and length and to address any potential outstanding gaps in knowledge.

Can I undertake the Program if I have not completed MATOD accreditation training?

This Program is designed for GPs who are accredited to prescribe MATOD. However, if you are in the process of undertaking MATOD accreditation training, or are intending to complete MATOD accreditation training, please contact us to discuss your eligibility for the Program.

What will I be required to do after completing the Program?

You will be asked to:

- Complete an evaluation of the Program
- Submit invoices for remuneration, as per the Program Guide.

Whether you have completed Level One or Two of the Program, we will also ask you to continue actively prescribing MATOD to patients in the community. This may be through the following pathways:

- Increasing your MATOD patient load at your usual place of practice
- If your usual place of practice is geographically located close to your host practice, offering to transfer some local patients into your care at your usual place of practice (pending agreement with the host practice)
- Expressing interest at your host practice to continue practicing there as a MATOD prescriber

If you have received a “Study Scholarship”, there will be an expectation that you will increase your MATOD patient load at your usual place of practice by a minimum of 5 patients over the 12 month period following your completion of the Program. While this cannot be formally monitored or regulated, it is requested that participants receiving a Study Scholarship make a concerted effort to accept MATOD patients that present to their practice.

Contact us for more information: A4PN@semphn.org.au or 03 8514 6600