



# GP training: management and treatment of opioid dependence

*This training will provide GPs and Nurse Practitioners with the skills to better manage patients with **opioid dependence** and the accreditation to prescribe approved pharmacotherapies.*

## Overview

**Opioid dependence** is a growing public health concern affecting a wide variety of patients including users of illicit, prescription and over-the-counter opioids.

**Pharmacotherapy** such as buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone®), buprenorphine (Subutex®) and methadone are effective evidence-based treatments for opioid dependence.

To prescribe Suboxone® for more than 5 patients or methadone for any patient, the following two-part free training is a requirement:

- Module 1 – A two hour online workshop available at <http://learning.nhv.org.au/> titled “Safer Opioid Prescribing”. This can be completed in your own time.
- Module 2 – A one day face-to-face interactive skills-based workshop. **Dates and venues to be advised. Please contact us to register your interest and secure your place at the next workshop.**

The Victorian Pharmacotherapy system is a community-based model where medical professionals and pharmacists work together to make pharmacotherapy for opioid dependence available in the community.

## Topics Covered

- Problematic pharmaceutical opioid use
- Clinical assessment of patients using opioids
- Drugs, dependence and harm minimisation
- Treatment approaches – buprenorphine/naloxone, buprenorphine & methadone
- Legal issues – permits, regulations, clinical standards and takeaway policies
- Available clinical & non-clinical supports

For more information, contact the  
**Area 4 Pharmacotherapy Network**

Eastern Liaison Coordinator:  
Jana Dostal  
0428 785 371  
[jana.dostal@semphn.org.au](mailto:jana.dostal@semphn.org.au)

Southern Liaison Coordinator:  
Jacqueline Apostolopoulos  
0429 808 317  
[jacqueline.apostolopoulos@semphn.org.au](mailto:jacqueline.apostolopoulos@semphn.org.au)

### Do you want to prescribe Suboxone® for up to 5 patients?

No formal accreditation training is required. We recommend viewing a 20 minute video at <http://learning.nhv.org.au/> titled “A brief guide to prescribing buprenorphine”. Further information is also available at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons/pharmacotherapy/buprenorphine-and-naloxone-prescribing-guidelines>