

Montefiore GENERAL GUIDELINES

We will continue to evaluate new patients seeking buprenorphine treatment. Please direct ALL new patient referrals to bupe@montefiore.org or **718-405-8227**.

Patients receiving buprenorphine treatment at MMG clinics should be prescribed **at least one month’s worth of buprenorphine medication** at each telemedicine visit (refills can be provided depending on clinical judgement). In general, telemedicine visits for stable patients should occur less frequently than typically.

Urine drug testing should not be required to receive a buprenorphine prescription until we return to in-person visits. Testing is offered at a few select MMG locations.

Naloxone kits should be prescribed to pharmacies that are registered to dispense naloxone under a standing order. **Naloxone training** will be provided telephonically. Please direct any questions to naloxone@montefiore.org

For patients with **co-morbid alcohol use disorder**, we strongly recommend **initiating medication treatment** (i.e. acamprosate, topiramate) and counseling on harm reduction (i.e. access to alcohol stores) to prevent patients from life-threatening alcohol withdrawal during COVID-19.

TELEMEDICINE BEST PRACTICES

1. Limit in person visits, **convert to telemedicine** if able
2. **Update patient contact** / emergency contact information
3. Choose a **telemedicine platform** and practice with it. Can do audio only or audio/visual (do not have to be HIPAA compliant)
4. **Prescriptions:** Opt for longer prescriptions (30day supply). Consider refills for stable patients.
5. **Urine drug screening:** consider pausing drug screening
6. Provide access to **virtual support groups** + telemental health services
7. Engage in **harm reduction** and overdose prevention counseling, ensure access to naloxone
8. Provide prescription delivery options for patients who are isolated/quarantined/sick or at “high-risk” for complication
9. **Schedule follow-up** – less often for stable patients
10. Ensure **documentation** supports telemedicine billing

Telemedicine + General Provider Resources

- [ASAM Supporting Access to Buprenorphine](#)
- [ASAM COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Yale Program in Addiction Medicine COVID-19 Guidance for Clinicians and OTPs](#)
- [SAMHSA Considerations for management of alcohol and BZD withdrawal](#)
- [California Bridge COVID-19 Emergency Response Resources](#)

REGULATION RESOURCES

Buprenorphine

OTP and DATA waived providers can treat NEW and EXISTING patients with OUD with BUPRENORPHINE via telemedicine (including TELEPHONE CALLS) without requiring an in-person exam.

Methadone

New patients to methadone treatment do require a face-to-face exam. Many SAMHSA blanket waivers to promote additional take-home bottles during COVID-19.

[DEA Telephonic New Visit Waiver](#) [DEA COVID-19 Page](#)
[SAMHSA Telemedicine Waiver](#) [SAMHSA COVID-19 Page](#)

HIPAA

[HIPAA violations waived](#) for providers serving patients with non-HIPAA compliant platforms when used in good faith. Includes FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, etc.

RESOURCES FOR PATIENTS

General Guidance

- [Montefiore Bupe Treatment Tip Sheet during COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for PWUD from NYC DoH](#)
- [Yale Program in Addiction Medicine COVID-19 Guidance for Patients](#)

Online/Virtual Support and Recovery Support Apps

- [SAMHSA Online Support Group Resources](#)
- [Recovery Support Apps – ASAM COVID-19 Resources](#)

Harm Reduction

- [Harm Reduction Coalition Safer Drug Use COVID-19](#)
- <http://neverusealone.com> (800) 484-3731
- [Next Distro Mail order harm reduction supplies](#) and [naloxone](#), online resources and online support

Sexual Health

- [COVID-19 and Sex Guidance from NYC DoH](#)

Platform	Capabilities	Considerations
Doximity Dialer	-Audio/visual -Able to call patients and caller-ID reads as clinic # -Personal fax line available	-HIPAA compliant -Free -Physicians, NP, PA, pharmacist, med students, any health care professional
FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts, etc	-Audio/visual -Widely used	-NON-HIPAA compliant -Patient must have same application -Free
Skype for Business, Zoom for Healthcare, Doxy.me, etc	-Audio/visual	-HIPAA compliant -Free trial - \$

PHARMACY DELIVERY– Buprenorphine

Capsule Pharmacy– deliver all over NYC, accept all major insurances (except straight Medicaid)

Boom Pharmacy - 226 E. 144th St. Bronx, NY 10451 - 718-292-0900, deliveries to Bronx, Manhattan, Yonkers