

**PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA
POLICY/ PROCEDURE**

Policy/Procedure Number: MPCR13B		Lead Department: Network Services Business Unit: Credentialing	
Policy/Procedure Title: Buprenorphine Prescriber Credentialing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Policy	
Original Date: 08/13/2014		Next Review Date: 04/08/2027 Last Review Date: 04/08/2026	
Applies to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Employees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medi-Cal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnership Advantage
Reviewing Entities:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IQI	<input type="checkbox"/> P & T	<input type="checkbox"/> QUAC
	<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMPLIANCE <input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTMENT
Approving Entities:	<input type="checkbox"/> BOARD	<input type="checkbox"/> COMPLIANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE <input type="checkbox"/> PAC
	<input type="checkbox"/> CEO <input type="checkbox"/> COO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREDENTIALS	<input type="checkbox"/> DEPT. DIRECTOR/OFFICER
Approval Signature: Mark Netherda, MD		Approval Date: 04/08/2026	

I. RELATED POLICIES:

- A. MCUP3101 – Screening and Treatment for Substance Use Disorders
- B. MPCR300 – Physician Credentialing and Re-credentialing Requirements

II. IMPACTED DEPTS:

- A. Health Services
- B. Provider Relations

III. DEFINITIONS:

- A. Buprenorphine: A medication used to treat pain and addiction, Includes different formulations and brand names, including Suboxone and Subutex.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

- A. N/A

V. PURPOSE:

This policy sets the standards for primary care physicians (PCPs) and non-physician clinicians who may be designated as “buprenorphine prescribers” and thus eligible to treat patients for substance use disorder without a referral who are assigned to other primary care clinicians. This policy also sets standards for specialist physicians and non-physician specialist clinicians who want to treat patients for substance use disorder without a referral.

VI. POLICY / PROCEDURE:

- A. For purposes of billing and directory listing and to treat patients without requiring a referral, in order to be recognized as a Buprenorphine Prescriber, the physician or non-physician clinician must hold a valid DEA certificate.

VII. REFERENCES:

- A. U. S. Food and Drug Administration website on buprenorphine prescribing:
<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/information-drug-class/information-about-medication-assisted-treatment-mat>

VIII. DISTRIBUTION:

- A. Partnership Provider Manual

IX. POSITION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURE: Director, Network Services

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X. REVISION DATES:
08/13/2014, 08/12/2015, 08/10/2016, 08/09/2017, 05/09/2018, 08/08/2018, 08/14/2019, 04/08/2020, 04/14/2021, 04/13/2022, 04/12/2023, 04/10/2024, 04/09/25, 04/08/26

PREVIOUSLY APPLIED TO:
N/A