



Opioid Treatment Accreditation Course and Fundamentals Training

Course Information Guide



The University of Sydney Discipline of Addiction Medicine operate the Opioid Treatment Accreditation Course (OTAC) and Fundamentals Training course. These courses aim to assist medical and nurse practitioners in the development of knowledge, skills, and practices to support the safe prescribing of opioid pharmacotherapies.

Completion of the OTAC and Fundamentals Training courses form the first part of the application process for practitioners to receive accreditation to prescribe opioid pharmacotherapies. Practitioners may also elect to undertake the Fundamentals Training course as a standalone program if they wish to remain as an unaccredited prescriber.

After successfully completing both courses, a half-day placement with an approved clinical supervisor may also be undertaken to meet the requirements for accreditation. Applications for accreditation are submitted to, and considered solely by, the NSW Ministry of Health Pharmacotherapy Credentialing Subcommittee (PCS).

These courses are funded by the NSW Ministry of Health, and are free of charge for participants. For more information, visit www.otac.org.au

Fundamentals Training

The Fundamentals Training program is a short, online-only introductory program that covers basic content around the NSW Opioid Treatment Program (OTP). Information regarding the safe prescribing of pharmacotherapies, with a focus on buprenorphine and buprenorphine/naloxone, are also discussed.

Prior to commencing the online course we recommend you review the *NSW Clinical Guidelines: Treatment of Opioid Dependence (Abbreviated Version)*. The course will cover the following areas of content:

- Opioid dependence
- Treatment options and service providers
- Clinical pharmacology
- Patient assessment and review
- Opioid agonist treatment (OAT)
- Complex presentations
- Takeaway doses
- Withdrawal management
- Regulatory and administrative considerations
- Resources, support, and contacts

Case studies and questions are embedded throughout the course to facilitate your learning and are complemented with relevant video content.

Opioid Treatment Accreditation Course

The OTAC is a full day course offered through a face-to-face seminar, and is currently being developed into an online course. Face-to-face sessions are typically organised at the University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus. The OTAC covers content throughout all stages of patient treatment, from induction to withdrawal from treatment, and will focus on more complex issues and cases. Additional focus is given to the prescribing of methadone, along with buprenorphine preparations.

This is the second step for practitioners who wish to become an accredited prescriber of opioid pharmacotherapies in accordance with the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 (NSW)*. Completion of the Fundamentals Training course is required prior to undertaking OTAC.

A brief multiple choice examination is conducted at the end of the course, which is designed to gauge your understanding of important concepts around the prescribing of opioid pharmacotherapies.

Becoming Accredited

Medical and nurse practitioners who successfully complete the OTAC can undertake a half-day clinical placement prior to submitting an application to become an accredited prescriber. Placements are undertaken with an approved addiction specialist and must be arranged by yourself.

During the placement you will be required to demonstrate satisfactory performance in the required learning outcomes. Information around placements and the accreditation process will be supplied to you upon successful completion of the OTAC.

Applications are to be submitted to the PCS for consideration. The University of Sydney Discipline of Addiction Medicine does not have any role in considering applications to become an accredited prescriber.

For more information

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Enrolment

We welcome anyone who is interested in furthering their knowledge around the safe prescribing of opioid pharmacotherapies, to enrol in, and complete, both the Fundamentals Training and OTAC. However, these courses aim to support medical and nurse practitioners to receive a formal accreditation to prescribe. As such, these professionals will be prioritised for receiving entry into the face-to-face OTAC courses.

We recommend that other medical professionals, including pharmacists, nurses, drug and alcohol workers, or public health researchers, enrol into the online courses.

Additionally, non-prescribing professionals will not be able to undertake the clinical placements that are required for medical and nurse practitioners. The placement is solely for the purpose of meeting the requirements to apply for accreditation to prescribe opioid pharmacotherapies by the PCS.

To enrol, visit www.otac.org.au

Continuing Professional Development

We encourage all who are eligible to receive Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points to apply to receive points from your respective college. If required, additional documentation can be supplied to you to assist with this process.

Members of the RACGP should be advised that, at this stage, CPD points for the OTAC and Fundamentals Training courses must be undertaken using the self-record option through the myRACGP portal. The Discipline of Addiction Medicine is still in the process of formalising the process to allocate CPD points to your account.



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