

# Queensland Opioid Treatment Program

*Competency standards for prescriber types 2021*

## Level 1 – Full QOTP prescriber

This prescriber can prescribe the full suite of pharmacotherapy options (methadone, buprenorphine-mono, including long-acting injection preparations and buprenorphine-naloxone) for the treatment of opioid dependence following successful completion of the QOTP Prescriber Course and approval being given by Queensland Health.

### Competency Standard

Successful completion of the Queensland Opioid Treatment Program (QOTP) Prescriber Course, a self-directed online interactive e-learning package (including exam) focusing on the essential information for safe and appropriate prescribing of approved opioids in the treatment of opioid dependence, including regulatory requirements.

This must be followed by a clinical placement (one full day or two half days) in a Hospital and Health Service QOTP clinic shadowing an experienced Level 1 Full QOTP prescriber.

## Level 2 – Specified QOTP prescriber

This prescriber (a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner on rotation in a Hospital and Health Service - Alcohol and Drug Service (HHS-AODS)) can prescribe the full suite of pharmacotherapy options (methadone, buprenorphine-mono, including long-acting injection preparations, and buprenorphine-naloxone) for the treatment of opioid dependence, for an interim period of up to 3 months while under the supervision of an experienced Level 1 Full QOTP prescriber, following approval being given by Queensland Health.

### Competency Standard

Successful completion of the Queensland Opioid Treatment Program (QOTP) Prescriber Course during the interim approval period (3 months).

## Buprenorphine-naloxone only QOTP prescriber

This prescriber (a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner) can prescribe sublingual buprenorphine-naloxone only for the treatment of opioid dependence to a maximum of 20 patients following successful completion of the online Buprenorphine-naloxone only Prescriber Course by Queensland Health.

### Competency Standard

Successful completion of the QOTP - Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) only Prescriber Course; a self-directed online interactive e-learning package (including exam) focusing on the essential information for safe and appropriate prescribing of buprenorphine-naloxone in the treatment of opioid dependence, including regulatory requirements.

## Shared Care QOTP prescriber

The prescriber (a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner) can prescribe a suite of pharmacotherapy options (which may include methadone, buprenorphine-mono and buprenorphine-naloxone and in specific circumstances long-acting injection buprenorphine) for the treatment of opioid dependence, with recommended training and agreement of a shared care arrangement (on a case-by-case basis) between an approved HHS-AODS QOTP prescriber and a community Shared care QOTP prescriber willing to co-manage the patient who has stable opioid dependence treatment. The HHS-AODS prescriber will co-ordinate the arrangement however the day-to-day treatment of the patient is managed by the Shared care QOTP prescriber. The patient remains registered with the HHS-AODS which will resume management if the patient de-stabilises.

### Competency Standard

No mandatory training is required if the shared care provider is prescribing methadone, buprenorphine mono or buprenorphine/naloxone, however self-directed learning is highly recommended.

Training is required if the shared care provider is prescribing buprenorphine-mono (long-acting injection buprenorphine).

An 'in-writing' agreement with a QOTP service provider establishing the shared care arrangement.

---

## Contacts:

Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch

Email: [QOTP@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QOTP@health.qld.gov.au)

Date: 27/09/2021