

From: Miller, Lawrence [Lawrence.Miller@vermont.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 9:55 AM
To: EXE - SrStaff
Subject: Fwd: 11:15 AM ET CALL TODAY: Actions by the Obama Administration to Address the Prescription Opioid Abuse and Heroin Epidemic

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mason, James (HHS/IEA)" <james.mason@hhs.gov>
Date: March 29, 2016 at 9:53:38 AM EDT
To: "HHS IEA (OS/IEA)" <HHSIEA@hhs.gov>
Subject: 11:15 AM ET CALL TODAY: Actions by the Obama Administration to Address the Prescription Opioid Abuse and Heroin Epidemic

From: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 9:30 AM
To: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)
Cc: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)
Subject: 11:15 AM ET CALL TODAY: Actions by the Obama Administration to Address the Prescription Opioid Abuse and Heroin Epidemic

HHS Intergovernmental and External Affairs Notification

March 29, 2016

From: Emily Barson
Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

RE: Actions by the Obama Administration to Address the Prescription Opioid Abuse and Heroin Epidemic

In conjunction with the President's visit to the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced a proposal to allow qualified physicians to prescribe the opioid use disorder treatment medication buprenorphine to an increased number of patients. The proposed change is designed to strike an appropriate balance

between expanding access to this important treatment, encouraging use of evidence-based medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and minimizing the risk of drug diversion.

Buprenorphine is an FDA-approved drug used as part of MAT, a comprehensive way to address the recovery needs of individuals that combines the use of medication with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders. Buprenorphine -- because of its lower potential for abuse -- is permitted to be prescribed or dispensed in physician offices, significantly increasing its availability to many patients. When taken as prescribed, buprenorphine is safe and effective.

Existing evidence shows that this lifesaving, evidence-based treatment is under-utilized. Updating the regulations around the prescribing of buprenorphine-containing products, as proposed today, would help close this treatment gap.

The full press release can be found [here](#).

For more information on the proposed rule, click [here](#).

Read the White House fact sheet [here](#).

Join us today at 11:15am ET for a call on this rollout.



Ahead of the President's remarks this afternoon, please join White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli and Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Richard G. Frank **TODAY, March 29th at 11:15am ET for details about the additional actions the Administration is taking to address the prescription opioid abuse and heroin epidemic.**

WHEN: TODAY, Tuesday, March 29th at 11:15 am ET

RSVP: Use this [link](#) to RSVP for the call. For closed captioning, please visit [this website](#) and use code 2913749

This call is off the record and for engagement purposes.

Questions or Concerns? Contact HHSIEA@hhs.gov.