

3/16/2020

Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Guidance

SAMHSA recognizes the evolving issues surrounding COVID-19 and the emerging needs OTPs continue to face.

SAMHSA affirms its commitment to supporting OTPs in any way possible during this time. As such, we are expanding our previous guidance to provide increased flexibility.

FOR ALL STATES WITH DECLARED STATES OF EMERGENCY

The state may request blanket exceptions for all stable patients in an OTP to receive 28 days of Take-Home doses of the patient's medication for opioid use disorder.

The state may request up to 14 days of Take-Home medication for those patients who are less stable but who the OTP believes can safely handle this level of Take-Home medication.

FOR STATES WITHOUT A DECLARED EMERGENCY

Each OTP can provide a blanket exemption request for its clinic per the guidance above (i.e., up to 28 days for stable patients and up to 15 days for less stable patients).

These requests do not have to be submitted on a per-patient basis. Programs and states should use appropriate clinical judgment and existing procedures to identify stable patients. Please note an increased medication supply will likely accompany these requests. Therefore OTPs and states must ensure that there is enough medication ordered and on hand to meet patient needs.