



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

# Nurse Prescribing Education Pathway

## Expanded Scope of Practice:

In September 2020, an order from the Provincial Health Officer authorized Registered Nurses (RNs)/ Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) to autonomously provide the following services:

- Assess and diagnose a Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) according to the [DSM-5-TR](#)
- Order and interpret diagnostic tests
- Prescribe specific medications called Opioid Agonist Therapies (OAT) for the treatment of OUD
- Refer person with OUD to specialized health and social service treatments for escalation of care for health and social welfare needs

## Nurse Prescribing Education Purpose:

Nurse prescribing education can be completed for the following reasons:

- A health care provider is interesting in expanding their knowledge on OUD, OAT and harm reduction. The health care provider:
  - May be providing supportive services related to substance use as part of care
  - Is **not wanting, or capable**, of becoming a certified nurse prescriber for OAT
- A RN or RPN is interesting in expanding their knowledge on OUD, OAT and harm reduction **and** is wanting to **become a certified nurse prescriber for OAT**.

## Authorization:

Education Purposes Only:

- For health care providers interesting in only expanding their knowledge access training can be done by [self-registration](#) on the BC Centre for Substance Use (BCCSU) [webpage](#).
  - There is **no** required authorization from your regional health authority lead.

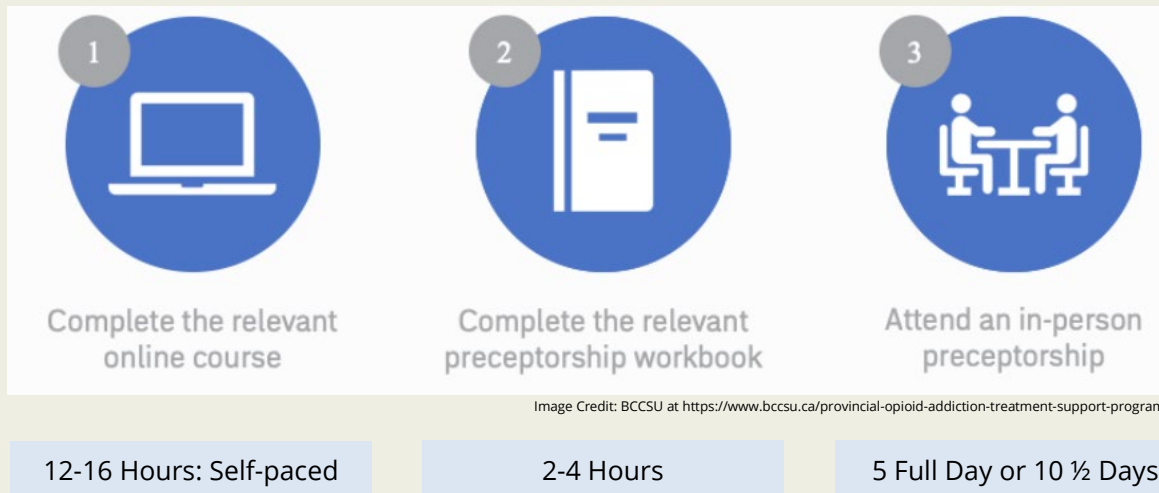
Becoming a Nurse Prescriber for OAT:

- For RNs and RPNs taking education and training to **prescribe** OAT, formal authorization from your regional health authority lead **is required**.
- Nurses are advised to obtain support for training from their respective employer (ex. Health Director/Manager/Lead/ Supervisor or other community leaders) prior to requesting registration into the nurse prescribing education.
  - For those seeking formal authorization from FNHA, as their health authority leader, please email [4Directions@fnha.ca](mailto:4Directions@fnha.ca) or [bccsu\\_education@bccsu.ubc.ca](mailto:bccsu_education@bccsu.ubc.ca)

For more information, contact the Four Directions team at: [4directions@fnha.ca](mailto:4directions@fnha.ca)

## BCCSU: Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program (POATSP) Education and Training Pathway: Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses:

The British Columbia Centre for Substance Use (BCCSU) provides the educational pathway for nurse prescribing. The education and training pathway is the [POATSP](#) and this includes the following:



### Next Steps Post POATSP Education and Training Completion:

1. Sign a Safe Prescriber Agreement:
  - In conjunction with your preceptor
2. Complete a Preceptorship Form:
  - Located in the workbook
3. Email completed form to BCCSU Education
  - Advise your Regional Health Lead of your completion of modules, workbook and preceptorship
  - Nurses supported by FNHA can email completed form to [4Directions@fnha.ca](mailto:4Directions@fnha.ca)

*\*FNHA & the BCCSU can assist nurses in completing the following additional next steps required prior to a nurse providing OAT prescribing services:*

1. Acquiring a MSP Billing Number
2. Acquiring Access to Pharmanet
3. Registering with the BCCNM as a Nurse Prescriber of OAT
4. Obtaining Prescription Pads

### FNHA OAT Access Grants: Supporting Nurses to Become Community Nurse Prescribers:

The community Opioid Agonist Therapy Access Grant provides funding directly to communities to support First Nations in identify and addressing community needs for OAT services, such as RN/RPN Nurse Prescribing. Funding is available to support communities and nurses to complete the BCCSU POATSP.

The grant is available to First Nations-operated health centres and nursing centres that are actively engaging in the process of improving access to OAT and/or RN/RPN prescribing in First Nations communities.

For more information on funding available please email the FNHA 4 Directions Team.

For more information, contact the Four Directions team at: [4directions@fnha.ca](mailto:4directions@fnha.ca)

