

# REQUESTING DOSES >32 MG

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### INTRODUCTION

According to SAMHSA's TIP 63 and the FDA-approved package insert for several buprenorphine products, doses of buprenorphine greater than 24 mg per day seem to show little to no clinical advantage.

The Dosing >32 mg Request Form is used to get approval from the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) to provide a patient with a dose of buprenorphine greater than 32 mg per day.

Pursuant to rule 0940-05-35-.13(1)(a)4., effective September 25th, 2025:

*A patient dose of thirty-two milligrams (32mg), or its equivalent, per day shall be considered a maximum dose. Doses greater than the maximum dose may only be used with prior written approval from the State Opioid Treatment Authority. Documentation of this approval shall be kept in the patient's medical chart or otherwise be readily retrievable upon request or facility inspection.*

### CONTACT

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615-532-6736

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### FAQ LAST UPDATED

September 2025

#### **Who is required to receive approval?**

Any facility licensed as an OBOT or OBOT Plus by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will need to receive SOTA approval to be able to dose a patient at a dose greater than 32 mg (or its equivalent) per day. Documentation of approval should be filed in the patient's chart or in a readily retrievable location.

#### **When does the request expire or need renewal?**

The SOTA approval expires when the patient is either discharged from the facility or if the patient has been dosed at an average daily dose of 32 mg or less per day for more than 90 days. At 90 days, a new request must be submitted.

#### **Does a dose approval cover all doses above 32 mg?**

No. Each request that is submitted is unique to the dose requested. For example, if a request is submitted for 35 mg, the provider may not offer a 36 mg dose. In order to increase the prescribed dose beyond the original request, a new request must be submitted.

#### **What supplemental information should be attached to the request?**

While there are no strict requirements for what needs to be attached, we recommend attaching documentation that would support the request to dose a patient beyond 32 mg per day. The following are examples that you may consider including: progress notes, treatment plans, COWS scores, labs, etc.

#### **Does a dosing approval transfer across facilities?**

No. Dosing approvals are tied to the license of the individual submitting the request, and thus, tied to that facility. If a patient transfers from one facility to another, a new request will be required by the new facility.

#### **What if you have questions about submitting a request that is not covered by this FAQ?**

Contact the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services at either 615-532-6736 or [SOTA.Office@tn.gov](mailto:SOTA.Office@tn.gov) if you have any questions, concerns, or have suggestions for future revisions of this FAQ.

#### **Link to the request form:**

[https://stateofennessee-cvlyz.formstack.com/forms/buprenorphine\\_32mg\\_request](https://stateofennessee-cvlyz.formstack.com/forms/buprenorphine_32mg_request)

