

Health Alert

Closure of Suboxone Practices in Philadelphia February 28, 2021

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health has been made aware that a large buprenorphine-providing practice abruptly closed its clinics, including two in Philadelphia, leaving hundreds of patients without a care plan or handoff to a new provider. PDPH is alerting hospitals, clinics, and drug treatment programs that they may encounter an influx of these patients. Providers are encouraged to connect these patients to long-term treatment, via a warm handoff if possible.

CBH's Member Services staff are available 24/7 at 1-888-545-2600 for Medicaid beneficiaries. Other patients can be referred to Pennsylvania's Patient Advocacy Program at 1-844-377-7367 or bit.ly/patientadvocacyPA. Patients can also be given the attached flyer for more information.

While efforts are being made to contact individual patients, not all will be reached. The closed practices were known to have high rates of benzodiazepines co-prescribing, putting these patients at particularly high risk of withdrawal and/or purchasing pills on the street, where the possibility of purchasing a [counterfeit pill containing fentanyl](#) is high. EMS and Emergency Departments should be aware that they may encounter more overdoses if people do seek to buy such pills. All patients seen in Emergency Departments and other clinical settings should be encouraged to seek treatment, offered naloxone upon discharge, and made aware of fentanyl test strips.

Resources:

- Naloxone:
 - Learn how to use and get naloxone: <https://www.phillynaloxone.com>
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment:
 - Behavioral Health Services Initiative (uninsured): 1-215-546-1200
 - CBH Member Services (Medicaid): 1-888-545-2600
 - Pennsylvania Patient Advocacy Program: 1-844-377-7367 or bit.ly/patientadvocacyPA