

## **Board Policy Statement: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

Adopted January 30, 2019

California law declares pharmacist health care providers who have authority and ability to provide health care services. Today pharmacists have six to eight years of collegiate education with focused experience in performing medication management. Increasingly this also includes additional residency experience.

Under California law for a number of years and in conjunction with collaborative practice agreements with prescribers, pharmacists have the ability to:

1. Design treatment plans
2. Initiate adjust and discontinue medications
3. Monitor patient progress
4. Order and review necessary laboratory tests
5. Coordinate care with other medical providers
6. Serve as expert consultants to support prescribers in making medication decisions for patients.

This skill set serves a dual purpose of positioning pharmacists so they may provide direct care to patients with opioid addiction and assist other medical providers in caring for this population, thereby expanding access to treatment. In recognition of these factors, the California State Board of Pharmacy advocates for changes in the law that will permit pharmacists to provide medication assisted treatment as part of a collaborative health care team.