On July 22, 2016, President Obama signed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) into law. CARA authorizes qualified NPs and PAs to become waivered to prescribe buprenorphine in office-based settings for patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) for a five-year period expiring in October 2021.

To qualify, NPs and PAs must:

- Be aware of any state law regarding the treatment of addiction/OUD
- Be licensed under state law to prescribe schedule III, IV, or V medications for pain
- Complete not less than 24 hours of appropriate education through a qualified provider
- Through other training or experience, demonstrate the ability to treat and manage OUD
- If required by state law, be supervised or work in collaboration with a qualifying* physician to prescribe medications for the treatment of OUD

AANP was listed in the law as one of the organizations that is qualified to provide the education. AANP collaborated with the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) and the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) to provide the required 24 hours of education. You can register for the courses in the AANP CE Center. Going through the AANP CE Center will ensure that your CE certificate and a list of the completed courses will always be available in your portfolio. Additionally, AANP has accredited these programs for the 24 hours of CE credit, which includes 18 hours of Pharmacology credit. For questions related to the education, please email CECenter@aanp.org

The NP/PA application for the waiver is now available. For questions related to the waiver application form, please email matwaiver@aanp.org

* “Qualifying physician” in this document refers to a physician that holds a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine and other medications for OUD.