

Buprenorphine is a Schedule III controlled substance used primarily to treat opioid use disorder (OUD). In 2025, regulations have expanded to allow more flexible telemedicine prescribing of buprenorphine, enabling patients to receive up to a six-month supply via a telephone or video consultation without a prior in-person visit. This expansion aims to improve access to life-saving treatment, especially for patients facing transportation or appointment barriers.

After the initial six-month supply, further prescriptions require an in-person visit or another telemedicine modality as determined by the DEA. Prescribers must review state prescription drug monitoring program records and ensure proper patient identity verification before dispensing. The final rules remove previous special recordkeeping and documentation burdens to ease access while maintaining patient safety.

Despite these advances, challenges remain in pharmacy stocking and timely dispensing of buprenorphine, which can cause treatment gaps and increased overdose risks. The DEA has proposed additional regulations for special telemedicine registrations for Schedule II-V controlled substances, which may include further clarity on prescribing practices.

In summary, buying buprenorphine online instantly via telemedicine in 2025 is legally possible under expanded DEA rules for an initial six-month supply, provided prescriptions come from licensed providers following these telehealth guidelines and patients use accredited pharmacies. Access improves under these policies but requires medical evaluation, identity verification, and monitoring to ensure safe treatment