

June 23, 2023

Scott A. Brinks
Section Chief
Diversion Regulatory Drafting & Policy Support Section
Drug Enforcement Administration
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

RE: OMB Number 1117-0014; Agency Information Collection Activities; Application for
Registration and Application for Registration Renewal; DEA Forms 224, 224A

Dear Mr. Brinks:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I am writing to provide comments on the revisions that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) proposes to make to the DEA registrant application and renewal forms to incorporate the new Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act requirements that were included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 (CAA), which take effect this month. The AMA supports the approach that the DEA has taken in its revisions to forms 224 and 224A. The check-the-box additions to the form should be clear to applicants and will allow them a simple means of attesting that they have obtained the needed education or training. Given the extremely short period of time that the CAA allowed for implementation of this new training requirement, the simple attestation process is especially important.

There are several points that could be added to the forms that the AMA believes would provide additional clarity to applicants when they are applying to obtain or renew their DEA registration:

1. Question 1 asks physicians whether they are board-certified in addiction psychiatry or addiction medicine. This question is fine as drafted.
2. Question 2 is directed at physicians who have graduated from an accredited school of medicine during the 5-year period preceding the date of their application and asks whether they received the required training during that period. The AMA recommends that this question be modified to also include physicians who may have received the required education during residency training following their medical school graduation. As residency programs are affiliated with medical schools, it would be helpful to clarify that the question includes training that physicians receive in their graduate medical education or residency programs.
3. Question 3 applies to all other physicians and seems to be the question that most physicians who are renewing their DEA registration would be utilizing. In addition to citing organizations accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR), the AMA recommends

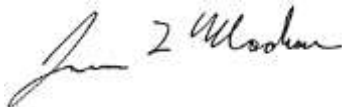
that the list of training providers be expanded to include the CAA language stating that the training may be provided by “any organization accredited by a State medical society accreditor that is recognized by the ACCME or the CCEPR.” The AMA further recommends that question 3 make clear that physicians who previously received X-waiver training under prior law (whether or not they subsequently applied for or received an X-waiver) can also attest to having completed the training requirements.

The AMA appreciates that the DEA is not requiring physicians to submit any information or proof that they have met the MATE Act training requirements, such as a list of courses or dates involved, and that the only requirement is for them to check the appropriate box when they apply for or renew their DEA registration. We were also pleased to learn that the DEA notifies each physician five times within the 60 days before they need to renew their DEA registration, informs them of the new training requirements in these notices, and allows them 30 days to complete and submit the form.

To help avoid potential unintended consequences from the implementation of the MATE Act provisions, we believe that it will also be important to provide DEA contact information to applicants so that they can let the agency know if they need more than the 30 days to complete their application due to the need to complete the training requirements. For physicians in these circumstances, we continue to urge that the DEA provide a grace period during which the physician can keep their DEA registration active pending completion of the required training. Finally, the AMA wishes to reiterate our previous request that the DEA clarify whether the detailed [educational content recommendations](#) that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration issued can be viewed by DEA-registered physicians and those developing educational content as meeting the training requirements for DEA form attestation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the revisions being made to DEA forms 224 and 224A. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Margaret Garikes, Vice President for Federal Affairs, at margaret.garikes@ama-assn.org or 202-789-7409.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD