



**To:** Members, AHA's Section for Psychiatric & Substance Abuse Services  
**From:** Rebecca Chickey, Director, Section for Psychiatric & Substance Abuse Services

**Subject: Update on Key Issues in the Behavioral Health Care Field: September 2014**

### **White House Update**

President Executive Orders for Veterans: According to a White House fact sheet, President Obama has announced new steps to improve veterans' access to mental health care and to improve the transition in getting care between the Department of Defense and the Veterans Affairs systems. He also announced his intent to foster suicide prevention and better treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder.

### **Washington State Supreme Court Ruling**

Last month, the Washington State Supreme Court unanimously ruled that patients who are in psychiatric crisis cannot be boarded in hospitals just because the appropriate evaluation and treatment facilities are overcrowded. According to the court, the State does have a legitimate interest in treating the mentally ill and protecting society from their actions, but the State cannot fail to provide that treatment because of a lack of funds, staff or facilities. "This is a critically important ruling for our patients and our hospitals," said Scott Bond, president and CEO of the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA). "Patients who are in psychiatric crisis need to be seen in safe and comfortable environments, and should not have to wait indefinitely." Mr. Bond was a Governing Council member of AHA's Section for Psychiatric & Substance Abuse Services from 2007 to 2009. The state, along with mental health advocates, asked the Supreme Court for a 120-day stay. On September 4<sup>th</sup>, The Washington state Supreme Court on Friday unanimously agreed to give the state more time to find beds in psychiatric hospitals for mentally ill patients who have been involuntarily committed because they were a danger to themselves or others.

### **AHA Regulatory Advisory: IPF PPS Final Rule**

On July 31, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued its inpatient psychiatric facility (IPF) prospective payment system (PPS) final rule for fiscal year (FY) 2015. The rule will increase IPF rates by 2.5 percent in FY 2015 compared to FY 2014, after accounting for inflation and other adjustments. The final rule will take effect Oct. 1. For more detail on the final rule review [AHA's Regulatory Advisory](#).

### **October 1, 2015, Switch to ICD-10**

Hospitals are required to switch to the ICD-10 (the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification /Procedure Coding System) on October 1, 2015. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) maintains an ICD-10 website with basic information, and a transcript and recording of a June 4 CMS training on "More ICD-10 Basics" is available online. The American Psychiatric Association offers a fact sheet titled "Understanding ICD-10-CM and DSM-V: Quick Guide for Psychiatrists and Other Mental Health Clinicians."

### **Hospital leaders brief Congress on benefits of 340B program**

At an AHA-sponsored briefing on Capitol Hill, hospital leaders shared with congressional staff the many benefits that the 340B Drug Pricing Program brings to low-income and uninsured patients, and urged Congress to preserve the program. In conjunction with the briefing, AHA released case examples from hospitals showing how they are using the program to benefit their patients and a new resource that

attempts to clear up misinformation about the 340B program. In addition, AHA President and CEO Rich Umbdenstock in a column in [Morning Consult](#) explains the important role the 340B program plays in helping hospitals care for vulnerable patients.

### **New Resources from AHA**

Save the Date for an AHA Members Only Conference Call: *Reducing ED Boarding & Improving ED Thruput – Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Care*. **Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**. [Click here](#) or go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RF5T723> to register for the call.

Health Care Leaders on Eliminating Disparities: Equity of Care, in collaboration with the Institute for Diversity in Health Management, is featuring 19 [video vignettes](#) of health care leaders sharing their ideas on eliminating health care disparities. Launched in 2011 by the AHA, Association of American Medical Colleges, American College of Healthcare Executives, Catholic Health Association of the United States, and America's Essential Hospitals, [Equity of Care](#) is a national call to action to eliminate health care disparities by increasing diversity in health care governance and leadership; cultural competency training; and collection and use of race, ethnicity and language preference data.

Cybersecurity Guide for Hospital Boards: A new [AHA member guide](#) reviews the role of hospital and health system boards in managing cybersecurity risk and response. As hospitals increase their reliance on information systems, hospital boards have a responsibility to understand, at a high level, their hospitals' cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities and plans for responding when something goes wrong.

Quest for Quality Prize® Nominations Open: Nominations for the American Hospital Association-McKesson Quest for Quality Prize® are now open. The award is presented annually to honor hospitals pursuing excellence through hospital leadership and innovation in quality improvement and safety. All U.S. hospitals are eligible. Consider [nominating](#) an organization - your own or another. Completed applications are due [October 12](#) to [questforquality@aha.org](mailto:questforquality@aha.org).

The [September Behavioral Health Update includes](#), among other items, AHA's [comment letter](#) on the OPSS proposed rule; how the Affordable Care Act has [increased access](#) to mental health services; a website designed for clinicians providing [Medication Assisted Treatment](#); and details on how to participate in [National Depression Screening Day](#). For additional resources, such as the latest [SAMHSA resource](#) on Disaster Readiness, go to the Section's website at [www.aha.org/psych](http://www.aha.org/psych).

### ***In Case You Missed It....***

*The Washington Post* took a look at how the death of Robin Williams has prompted grassroots conversation about mental health. The conversation has drawn attention to suicide prevention, the value of treatment, and the need for policy to support people with mental and addictive disorders. As a behavioral healthcare leader, your organization may receive more inquiries from local media and families. Resources to help in your communications with your community include the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) (1-800-273-8255) and the [Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance](#), among others. Consider participating in the community outreach programs, including [National Depression Screening Day](#) set for October 9 or [National Alcohol Screening Day](#) set for April 9, 2015.

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