



**American Hospital
Association®**

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STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH PARITY FINAL RULE

**Rick Pollack
Executive Vice President
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America's hospitals are pleased that the Administration has issued the final rule implementing the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. While we are still reviewing the rule, it is an important step toward removing barriers to care that affect many patients suffering from psychiatric and substance abuse conditions. By no longer thinking of behavioral and physical health benefits as distinct, we can make progress toward overcoming the stigma often associated with psychiatric and substance abuse conditions. Patients who suffer from these conditions are among the most vulnerable Americans, and hospitals strongly support ensuring their access to both physical and behavioral health services.