



Behavioral Health Update

March 2020 Behavioral Health Update

Advocacy and Regulatory Updates

Bill would align privacy regulations to improve care for SUD patients

Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., have [reintroduced](#) the Protecting Jessica Grubb's Legacy Act (S. 3374), AHA-supported legislation that would modernize privacy regulations affecting the disclosure of substance use disorder treatment records to better enable health care providers to coordinate care. The bipartisan bill would more closely align 42 CFR Part 2 with HIPAA regulations and strengthen protections against discrimination, while allowing patients to opt-in to share their addiction records in a variety of coordinated care settings.

The Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2, a coalition of health care organizations including the AHA, [applauded](#) the bill. "The Partnership strongly believes that the modernization of privacy regulations and medical records for persons with substance use disorders, while protecting this information with enhanced penalties for unlawful disclosure and use, is a critical component for tackling the opioid crisis and will improve the overall coordination of care in the United States."

House panel holds hearing on bills to address SUD

The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee recently [held a hearing](#) titled "Combatting an Epidemic: Legislation to Help Patients with Substance Use Disorders (SUD)." Subcommittee members inquired about the status of several not yet implemented provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act and SUD Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (referred to as the SUPPORT Act). They also discussed 14 bills to further expand access to SUD, including the following two supported by the AHA:

- The [Opioid Workforce Act](#) (H.R. 3414/S.2892) would add 1,000 Medicare-funded training positions to approved residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry or pain management over a five-year period.

- The [Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act](#) (H.R. 2482/S. 2074) would eliminate a requirement that practitioners apply for a separate waiver from the Drug Enforcement Administration to prescribe buprenorphine for SUD treatment.

Congress urged to consider value-based addiction recovery services payment

The Alliance for Addiction Payment Reform, of which AHA is a convening member, recently [showcased](#) its value-based payment model for addiction and recovery support services at a briefing for congressional lawmakers and staff. AHA members are involved in the pilot program,

including Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery in Michigan. Raymond Waller, administrator of Brighton Center, is the 2020 Chair of AHA's Behavioral Health Council.

Increased Behavioral Health Coverage in CHIP

Last month CMS issued [guidance](#) to states implementing Section 5022 of the SUPPORT Act, which requires all states with separate Children's Health Insurance Programs to cover specific behavioral health-related screening and preventive services for children and pregnant women. The guidance includes a template for submitting CHIP state plan amendments to comply with the section, and much more.

Upcoming Events and Webinars, and new Resources

AHA Innovation Challenge: Behavioral Health

The 2020 [AHA Innovation Challenge](#) is an opportunity to help people with behavioral health disorders live a more balanced, productive life. Submissions are now open and must be submitted electronically by May 15. The top three proposals receive funding to help bring their ideas to life — \$100,000, \$25,000 and \$15,000.

March 17 webinar at 1 p.m. ET on promoting resilience and preventing burnout

AHA's Physician Alliance will lead a conversation on how to move beyond the prevention of burnout during the [webinar](#). Speakers from Parkview Physician Group and the National Taskforce for Humanity in Healthcare will discuss the systemic cultivation of human thriving and connection to promote resilience, well-being and joy.

April 27 webinar at 3 p.m. ET on reducing LOS of behavioral health patients in ED

Join AHA's Behavioral Health Services on a webinar where AMITA Health staff will describe the implementation of a behavioral health, ED screening process, as well as other steps that they have taken to **reduce the overall length of stay for behavioral health patients in the ED by 35%**. To register [click here](#).

June 15-19 ACHI and IFDHE national conferences

Executives and leaders from the nation's hospitals, health systems, community health and other health-related organizations will gather in Cleveland for the Association for Community Health Improvement and the Institute for Diversity and Health Equity national conferences. One of the ACHI tracks is dedicated to behavioral health. **View more information and register for the [ACHI](#) and [IFDHE](#) conferences.**

AHA & NQF Telebehavioral Health Guide

The AHA and the National Quality Forum guide: [Redesigning Care: A How-to Guide for Hospitals and Health Systems Seeking to Implement, Strengthen and Sustain Telebehavioral Health](#) can be an important tactical resource to address the growing demand for behavioral health services.

AHA Market Scan: Social company moving into healthcare

A recent [edition](#) of Market Scan looks Snapchat entering the world of behavioral health care.

AHA launches resources on public health approaches to address gun violence

The AHA through its Hospitals Against Violence initiative has launched a new [webpage](#) to support hospitals and health systems' efforts to combat the public health issue of gun violence.

Updates

VA offers resources to help prevent suicide among veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers a [host of materials](#) to help community partners, and health care providers, prevent suicide among veterans. The resources include a Coaching into Care website and national telephone service; community provider toolkit; safe messaging practices; and family suicide prevention guides.

Improving Behavioral Health Care in the ED

A new white paper [Improving Behavioral Health Care in the Emergency Department and Upstream](#) provides actionable guidance for hospital emergency departments and their community partners who are committed to creating a compassionate, seamless and effective system of care that is respectful of and works with patients with mental health conditions and substance use disorders who present to the emergency department.

Joint AHA/NABH March behavioral health communication

This month's [edition](#) includes information on: A new National Quality Forum report, [Opioids and Opioid Use Disorder: Quality Measurement Priorities](#); President Trump's proposed \$4.8 trillion [budget](#) for 2021 that would modify Medicaid's Institutions for Mental Diseases' exclusion; and more. To access past *Behavioral Health Updates*, click [here](#).

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