



Section for Psychiatric & Substance Abuse Services

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: [April 2017](#)

AHA Advocacy Update

House Leaders Cancel Vote on ACA Repeal Bill: On March 24, House Republican leaders canceled the vote on the American Health Care Act ([H.R. 1628](#)), legislation to repeal and replace parts of the Affordable Care Act. The prospects of future congressional action addressing the ACA are uncertain at this time. In a [letter](#) to members of the House of Representatives, AHA said it could not support the bill in its current form, particularly since the Congressional Budget Office [estimated](#) that 14 million more people would be uninsured in 2018 and nearly 24 million people would lose coverage over the next 10 years – many of them individuals with behavioral health disorders. [Click here](#) for more information.

Commission on Opioid Crisis: President Trump is [establishing](#) a commission to study the effectiveness of, and make recommendations to improve, the federal response to drug addiction and the opioid crisis. Within 90 days of the date of this order, the Commission will submit a report to the President on its interim recommendations with final recommendations due by Oct. 1.

AHA Urges Funding for HRSA: AHA and its American Organization of Nurse Executives [recommended](#) House and Senate appropriators provide \$7.48 billion in discretionary funding for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in fiscal year 2018. "HRSA administers programs that focus on improving care for millions of Americans, who are medically underserved or face barriers to needed care, by strengthening the health workforce and increasing access to quality health services."

Protect 340B: "Congress should preserve the 340B Drug Pricing Program and protect patients and communities," writes AHA Executive Vice President Tom Nickels in an [AHA Stat blog post](#). He notes, "Every day, we see stories about the exorbitant costs of prescription drugs and the serious challenges they pose for individuals and the entire health care system. One program that has a 25-year track record of improving access to medications and health care services for people in vulnerable communities is the 340B program." For more on the 340B program, see the [AHA video](#).

Register Now: Political, policy, opinion and health care leaders will come together May 7-10 in Washington, D.C. for the AHA Annual Membership Meeting. Visit www.aha.org today and register at the early bird rate.



AHA Regulatory Update

April 7 Deadline on CMS RFI for Integrated Care Model: The [request for information](#) says, "The aim of this model is to facilitate strategies for timely and appropriate delivery of family-centered, community-based, linguistically and culturally appropriate, cost-effective, and integrated services to all children and youth covered by Medicaid and CHIP with an emphasis on those with or at-risk for developmental, social, emotional, or behavioral health challenges, intellectual or physical developmental delays or disabilities, and/or those with complex and/or chronic health conditions." [Click here](#) for more info.

How to Bill for Collaborative Care: The CMS [website](#) now has a number of resources to help providers bill Medicare under the fee-for-service physician fee schedule. [Fact Sheet: Behavioral Health Integration Services](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions about Billing Medicare for Behavioral Health Integration Services](#) highlight how to bill for collaborative care.

Chronic Care Management Resources: CMS’s Office of Minority Health and HRSA’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy have launched an [educational initiative](#) on the benefits of chronic care management services. In 2015 CMS adopted a separately payable Medicare Part B billing code for CCM services that allows eligible practitioners to bill for at least 20 minutes of clinical staff time directed by a physician or other qualified health care professional per calendar month for activities to manage and coordinate care for Medicare and dual eligible beneficiaries with two or more chronic conditions expected to last at least 12 months or until death.

VA and TRICARE Mental Health: In a positive move, VA Secretary David J. Shulkin, M.D. has [announced his intention](#) to expand provisions for urgent mental health care needs to former service members with other-than-honorable (OTH) administrative discharges. In a move to increase online access, TRICARE’s reimbursement rates for freestanding partial hospitalization programs (PHPs) and residential treatment centers (RTCs) under the TRICARE program can be found by [clicking here](#).

42 CFR Part 2 Final Rule now in Effect: In January, SAMHSA issued the final rule for 42 CFR Part 2, Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records. The revised 42 CFR Part 2 regulations became [effective on March 21, 2017](#). AHA had [urged](#) SAMHSA to align the final rule, the first major update to the rule since 1987, with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

AHA Resources

An Executive Leadership Webinar Series: The [2016 report](#) from the AHA Board Task Force on *Ensuring Access in Vulnerable Communities* considered a number of integrated, comprehensive strategies to reform health care delivery and payment. It outlines a list of options from which communities may select based on their unique needs, support structures and preferences. This free series of webinars will engage members in discussions of strategies, best practices and tools and resources that can assist vulnerable communities and the hospitals that serve them as they ensure access to care.

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| April 27 | Virtual Care/Telehealth | Click here to register. |
| June 20 | Social Determinants of Health | Click here to register. |
| September 21 | Hospital/Health Clinic Partnerships | Click here to register. |
| October 12 | Emergency Medical and Urgent Care Centers | Click here to register. |

AHA Releases National Hospital Week Planning Guide: May 7-13 is National Hospital Week, an annual celebration of hospitals and the men and women who support the health of their communities. This year’s theme is [“The Healing Heart of Healthcare.”](#)

The [April Behavioral Health Update](#) includes information on: SAMHSA [grants](#) to integrate primary and behavioral health care for adults and children; a new [report](#) from the National Quality Forum; and more. *May is Mental Health Month* resources [here](#); and [click here](#) for more AHA resources on behavioral health.

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