



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: [September 2017](#)

Hurricane Update

AHA continues to support the Texas Hospital Association as they work with hospitals and health systems, as well as local and federal agencies, to respond to the devastating destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey. For information on how to help, visit: www.tha.org/Harvey/ReliefFund. Additionally, AHA is in close communication with the Florida, Puerto Rico, and other state hospital associations bracing for Hurricane Irma. AHA team members will continue to work with state hospital association staff, serving as a liaison with federal relief agencies. We'll be in touch with how you can help in these areas soon.

AHA Advocacy Update

September Congressional Priorities: Returning from their August recess, Congress has a tough list of must-do issues, including funding the government, extending the moratorium on Medicaid disproportionate share hospital cuts, extending expiring Medicare payment provisions, funding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), raising the debt ceiling, relief for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey, and tax reform. And there may still be efforts to revisit the repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act.

Stabilization of the Health Insurance Marketplaces and continued funding for the cost-sharing reductions, or CSRs, should be a top Congressional priority. These payments help millions of low- and middle-income Americans afford coverage. The AHA is part of a coalition advocating for continued CSR funding along with groups like the American Medical Association, America's Health Insurance Plans, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others.

September 12th, AHA Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.: Join us as AHA Leaders brief attendees on the top issues facing Congress before hospital and health system leaders take their message directly to their legislators on Capitol Hill. For more details & registration, [click here](#).

AHA Regulatory Update

Payment Increase for Inpatient Psych Facilities in 2018: The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) estimates payments to inpatient psychiatric hospitals will increase by .99% in 2018, which reflects a payment rate update of 1.25% minus .26% for outlier adjustments. No changes were made to the underlying payment system, which has not changed since the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Prospective Payment System (IPF PPS) was established in 2005. However, CMS said it will continue to analyze the data for possible changes in the future. These new rates will become effective on October 1, 2017. A [fact sheet](#) provides more information.

PHP 20 Hours per Week Update: In August, CMS [rescinded](#) changes to its billing process for Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) services that were [suspended](#) last year. The changes to the agency's Integrated Outpatient Code Editor would have enforced the program's minimum 20 hours per week of therapeutic services by requiring weekly billing and denying claims that did not meet the 20 hours in a given week. AHA and others had urged CMS to drop the proposed edits, which are inconsistent with CMS guidance and regulation and would require substantial administrative and clinical changes by program providers.

Proposed Expansion of Payment for Telehealth to Include Psychotherapy for Crisis: AHA's [Regulatory Advisory](#) gives a detailed analysis of the July 13 Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule. In addition to

standard updates to the Medicare PFS payment rates, CMS proposes to expand the list of telehealth services including psychotherapy for crisis, health risk assessments, and care planning for chronic care management. Comments are due Sept. 11.

Inpatient PPS Final Rule: Major provisions of the CMS [final inpatient PPS](#) rule and key submission deadlines are described in this [AHA Regulatory Advisory](#). We have created calculators to help you estimate the dollar amount of your potential [readmissions penalty](#), net [value-based purchasing program](#) gain or loss, and [disproportionate share hospital payment](#). Information about the IPF Quality Reporting (QR) Program appears on pages 38461 thru 38474.

Modifying 42 CFR: Last month AHA wrote [a letter](#) to Congress urging lawmakers to reduce regulatory burdens on hospitals, patients and health systems, including data sharing barriers for addiction treatment records. The letter asks Congress to enact the reforms included in the [Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act](#) (H.R. 3545).

Opioid Epidemic

Mapping Opioid-Related Hospitalizations: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHQR) has released a [map](#) showing state trends in opioid-related hospital stays between 2009 and 2014. According to an [AHRQ report](#), opioid-related hospital stays increased 75% for women and 55% for men between 2005 and 2014, while opioid-related emergency department visits doubled for both sexes.

HCAHPS's Pain Management Questions: In support of [AHA statements](#), Medicare [will remove](#) from hospital surveys a trio of questions asking patients how well their pain was managed. Instead, the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Survey will focus on hospitals' communication with patients about pain during hospital stays. The Obama administration last year removed pain-management scores from its Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Model.

AHA Resources

Sep. 7, 2:30-3:30 p.m. CT, Webinar: *Integrating Oncology & Behavioral Health Services:* Please [register](#) to participate and learn about a collaborative care [model](#) offered by Massachusetts General Hospital. Speakers will describe the model's creation, implementation & impact.

Sep. 21, 11:00 a.m. – Noon CT, Webinar: *Housing and the Role of Hospitals:* Please [register](#) to learn how Children's Mercy Kansas City and University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System developed and implemented housing instability strategies – a priority community health issue. This webinar and recent AHA guide "[Housing and the Role of Hospitals](#)" are resources in our social determinants of health series

October 10, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT, Webinar: *Enhancing your Workforce's Impact and Patient Access to Behavioral Health thru Integration and Technology.* Please [register](#) to learn how Sanford Health uses technology to maximize the impact of its existing clinical workforce.

Trustee Resources: The AHA is committed to supporting good governance by providing trustee-focused resources, tools and education that foster high-performing hospital and health system boards. To be informed of the latest resources and receive *Trustee Insights*, AHA's quarterly package of resources, tools, webinars and video for boards and CEOs, please [subscribe](#) or email us at trustees@aha.org.

The [September Behavioral Health Update](#) includes information on: October 5: [National Depression Screening Day](#); September's [National Recovery Month](#) resources; and more. [Click here](#) for more AHA resources on behavioral health.

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