

Tennessee Addiction



Society of Medicine

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ADDICTION and RECOVERY: COMMUNITIES TAKE ACTION

HBO, in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), has produced a multi-platform campaign to educate Americans about advancements in the understanding of drug and alcohol addiction and its treatment as a brain disease. The campaign is built around a 90-minute HBO documentary entitled "ADDICTION" that is scheduled to air in March 2007. With support from RWJF, the companion grassroots campaign, spearheaded by Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), Faces & Voices of Recovery) and Join Together, will be working in communities across the country to maximize the impact of the documentary in their local communities in the months leading up to and following the broadcast of the program through National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in September 2007.

About HBO's "ADDICTION"

The 90-minute documentary ADDICTION is scheduled to air on HBO in March of 2007. HBO is offering a free preview of HBO, HBO2 and HBO On Demand from March 15-19, 2007 pending cable operator availability and participation. *USA Today* will publish a two-week series of articles on addiction science and treatment leading up to the March broadcast. In addition, HBO will be releasing:

- Fourteen supplemental programs that will be available on HBO on Demand, multi-plex HBO channels, and through commercial, grassroots and educational DVD distribution channels
- A companion book
- A companion Web site

Local & National Addiction and Recovery: Communities Take Action Events

Nationwide events with a special focus on 30 communities will bring together community coalitions, people in long-term recovery and their families, elected officials, civil servants and allied organizations to raise awareness about addiction and recovery and promote new attitudes and policies. An interactive *Addiction and Recovery: Communities Take Action* web site will arm communities with a range of downloadable organizing tools to support their efforts. These tools will include: a Viewers Guide; sample media materials; event planning checklists, tips for organizing support and trainings materials. In addition *Addiction and Recovery: Communities Take Action* will provide materials on policy issues addressed in the program such as ending insurance discrimination; expanding opportunities for medication-assisted recovery; and making it possible for people to get the help they need when they need it. The interactive website, www.addictionaction.org, was launched on February 6, 2006.

New CMS Codes Will Facilitate Reimbursement for Screening, Intervention and Treatment of Addiction :

Effective January 1, CMS has issued reimbursement codes for Alcohol and Drug Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) and a unique J code for the class of medications, in which VIVITROL is included.

- o These SBI codes will permit CMS to reimburse for SBI, an effective tool used for addressing alcohol abuse problems and alcoholism which could signal new hope for CMS beneficiaries who suffer with addiction. Link to CMS report (pg 6): <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1037CP.pdf>.
- The unique J code for the class of medications, in which VIVITROL is included, is for use by all payors - including Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers. The J code may not impact which insurance providers cover VIVITROL. However, the use of the J code (J2315) will allow electronic processing of the reimbursement forms for VIVITROL, which could potentially expedite the reimbursement process for physicians and their staff. For more information about VIVITROL, please visit www.vivitrol.com

Tennessee Medical Association- adopts. TNSAM legislative priority

Your president submitted a request to TMA Legislative Committee and Board of Trustees both have approved adding a resolution to our 2007 legislative package urging the Comptroller to complete a review of the state's alcohol and substance abuse statutes and programs along the lines of our request.

Buprenorphine Patient limit raised- President Bush signed H.R. 6344

The ONDCP Reauthorization Act of 2006, into law on Friday, December 29, 2006. This bill contained a provision that increases the prescribing limit for buprenorphine from 30 to 100 patients per waived physician. Physicians should note the following parameters, as specified in the legislation: physicians who have had their waiver for no less than one year must notify the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services of their need and intent to treat up to 100 patients

Addiction CME- available

ASAM and Clinical Tools, Inc. have developed an online Addiction CME site:

<http://www1.addictioncme.com/>

Thoughts and considerations- R.G. Soper, MD, JD, MS President

The psychology of addiction includes a tremendous range of scientific activity, from the basic experimental laboratory through increasingly broad relational contexts, including patient-practitioner interactions, families, social networks, institutional settings, economics and culture. Some of the contributions include applications of behavioral principles, cognitive and behavioral neuroscience and the development and evaluation of addiction treatment.

Addiction medicine has at times been guilty of proliferating theories with relatively little pruning, and of overemphasizing intrapersonal explanations for human behavior. However, at its best, defined as the science of the individual in context, addiction medicine is an integrated discipline using diverse methods well-suited to capture the multi-dimensional nature of addictive behavior.

Addiction medicine has a unique ability to integrate basic experimental and applied clinical science and to apply the knowledge gained from multiple levels of analysis to the pragmatic goal of reducing the prevalence of addiction.

The Board of Directors of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) has appointed a Medical Specialty Action Group (MSAG) to develop a knowledge base and make recommendations regarding the recognition of Addiction Medicine as a physician specialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The MSAG held its inaugural meeting December 1-2 at the Hazelden Foundation, Center City, MN. Certification by an ABMS Member Board is meant to provide assurance to the public that a physician specialist certified by an ABMS Member Board has successfully completed an approved educational program and an evaluation process. Certification requires completion of an accredited training and an examination designed to assess the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to provide quality patient care.

ASAM's President, Elizabeth F. Howell, M.D., FASAM, and MSAG Co-Chairs, Michael Miller, M.D., FASAM, FAPA (ASAM President-Elect) and Kevin Kunz, M.D., MPH, FASAM said that the Board's actions are prompted by ASAM members' increasing concern that too few physicians are trained to diagnose and treat patients with alcohol, nicotine or other drug problems, including problem use of prescription drugs.

Most patients and their families are uncertain about how to identify a physician who can help them with an alcohol or drug problem. ASAM has offered a certifying examination in addiction medicine for over 20 years and has certified 3,841 physicians. This certification examination, developed in collaboration with the National Board of Medical Examiners, is not recognized by the ABMS.

The MSAG will review the ABMS' requirements to establish board certification and the requirements of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for creating programs to train physicians. The Group will prepare a report for the ASAM Board's April 2007 meeting. In addition to outlining the requirements and costs for achieving these goals, the report will present recommendations on the collaboration that will be required with ABMS Member Boards, medical specialty societies and other research, education and healthcare organizations to achieve ABMS board certification in addiction medicine.

Your president is on the MSAG committee, if you have any thoughts or suggestions, do not hesitate to e-mail or contact me.

TREAT ADDICTION

SAVE LIVES

