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ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

National

ASAM Calls for Caution Regarding HIPAA Proposed Rule

On April 30, ASAM sent a comment letter to the US Department of Health and Human Services on recently proposed modifications to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule. Read More

ASAM Applauds the Biden-Harris Administration for its Commitment to Ban Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars

On April 29, ASAM applauded the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to ban menthol cigarettes
and flavored cigars and urged the FDA to propose and finalize regulations expeditiously to implement this bold proposal.
Read More

Statement from ASAM on HHS Practice Guidelines Exemption from Enumerated X-Waiver Certifications For Eligible DEA-Registered Practitioners

On April 27, ASAM applauded a new policy that exempts eligible, DEA-registered practitioners from federal certification requirements related to training, counseling, and other ancillary services that are part of the process for obtaining a waiver to treat up to 30 patients with buprenorphine for opioid use disorder.
Read More

ASAM Applauds Reintroduction of the Opioid Workforce Act

On April 27, ASAM commended the reintroduction of the Opioid Workforce Act, which would support 1,000 new graduate medical education training positions over five years in hospitals that have—or are in the process of establishing—accredited residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain medicine.
Read More

ASAM Supports Legislation to Empower US Department of Labor Parity Compliance Enforcement

On April 14, the Mental Health Liaison Group, of which ASAM is a member, sent a letter in support of the Parity Enforcement Act, which would give the U.S. Department of Labor a critical tool to ensure health plan compliance with federal parity law.
Read More

State
MWSAM Supports Legislation to Improve Access to Addiction Treatment for Individuals Who are Incarcerated

On April 28, the Midwest Society of Addiction Medicine (MWSAM) submitted a letter of support for SB521, which would require state entities in Missouri responsible for individuals who are incarcerated to provide screening and assessment for addiction, as well as access to medications for addiction treatment.

Read More

NNESAM Supports Legislation to Improve Access to Addiction Treatment and Harm Reduction Measures

On April 20, the Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine (NNESAM) submitted a letter in support of both LD 663 and LD 994. These bills would provide access to medications for addiction treatment in correctional facilities and decriminalize hypodermic apparatuses, respectively.

Read More
ISAM Endorses Legislation to Improve Coverage of Addiction Treatment

On April 19, the Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) submitted a letter in support of HB2595, which would, among other things, ensure that insurers cover medically necessary addiction treatment. Read More

OKSAM Supports Legislation to Improve Access to Telehealth

On April 16, the Oklahoma Society of Addiction Medicine (OKSAM) submitted a letter in support of SB674, which would dramatically expand access to addiction treatment by mandating that certain insurers cover telehealth. Read More

HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND

Health Resources and Services Administration’s National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Programs – DEADLINE EXTENDED

HRSA’s National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is accepting applications for three loan repayment programs. The application deadline is extended and now closes on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 7:30 pm ET.

Get help with your application and attend the NHSC Loan
Repayment Program Q&A Session on Thursday, May 20 from 9 am-5 pm ET.

Webinar: Mental Health Poll: Assessing the Crisis During COVID-19 and Beyond

On May 24, the Bipartisan Policy Center will host an event to release findings from their national poll assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and substance use crisis in America. The findings address the significant barriers that people face in accessing treatment and their experiences using telehealth during the pandemic.

Register Here

Webinar: 2021 Evaluation and Management (E/M) Office Visit Technical Corrections

On May 25, the American Medical Association will host a webinar reviewing technical corrections to the landmark Evaluation and Management (E/M) Office Visit reforms which went into effect this year.

Register Here

ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES

COVID-19 Brought Easier Access to Methadone but Ohio's Ending it, Expert is Asking 'Why?'

ASAM legislative advocacy committee chair, Dr. Yngvild Olsen, discusses the possibility of reforming methadone delivery based on the changes made to the system during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Following Spike in Overdose deaths, Rep. Trone Introduces Bipartisan Legislation to Expand Access to Recovery Housing

ASAM's past president, Dr. Paul Earley, is quoted on the need for high-quality recovery housing in the United States.

ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS

Addiction Should Be Treated, Not Penalized
NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow, Health Affairs

More Flexible Methadone Access Should Continue Post-Pandemic
Beth Connolly, Alaina McBournie, and Sheri Doyle, Pew

Biden Extends Ban on Fentanyl-Like Substances
Rebecca Shabad, NBC News

Medicaid Is Key to Building a System of Comprehensive Substance Use Care for Low-Income People
Anna Bailey, Kyle Hayes, Hannah Katch, and Judith Solomon, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Take Action with ASAM

ASAM has three “live” action alerts which ASAM members and the public can use to contact their members of Congress about ways they can strengthen the nation’s addiction treatment workforce, standardize the delivery of addiction medicine education, and ensure Medicaid coverage for eligible individuals with substance use disorder who are incarcerated. Each action alert comes with a letter ready to send; all you do is select an action, insert your information, and press “send message.”

TAKE ACTION TODAY

The ASAM Advocate eNewsletter
Kelly M. Corredor: Chief Advocacy Officer
Susan E. Awad: Director, Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Corey Barton, Associate Director, Advocacy and Government Relations
Zachary Semple: Manager, Advocacy and Government Relations
Mitchell Nuland: Specialist, Advocacy and Government Relations

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