

Addiction Medicine Advocacy Highlights

ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

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THE ASAM ADVOCATE

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



NATIONAL

ASAM Opens Registration for the 2021 Addiction Medicine Advocacy Conference

ASAM members are invited to join their colleagues from across the country on March 22-23, 2021 for this two day virtual advocacy event. ASAM members will receive training from expert advocacy

professionals on the issues most important to the practice of addiction medicine and participate in carefully planned virtual meetings with Capitol Hill policymakers and their staff.

[Read More and Register Today](#)

New Rules on Safe Harbor Under the Anti-Kickback Statute and Civil Monetary Penalty Rules Regarding Beneficiary Inducements

On December 2, the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services released a final rule that amends the safe harbors to the Federal anti-kickback statute and the civil monetary penalty rules regarding beneficiary inducements. Of note, the final rule does not expand the patient engagement and support safe harbor to include cash and cash-equivalent (gift card) payments offered as part of contingency management interventions or other programs to motivate beneficial behavioral changes.

[Read More](#)

ASAM's Letter Opposing the MORE Act: Country Needs a Scientifically-Informed and Compassionate Approach to Cannabis Policy

On November 30, ASAM sent a letter to congressional leadership opposing the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act of 2019, which would, among other things, remove cannabis from the list of scheduled substances under the Controlled Substances Act. The letter notes that ASAM supports passage of comprehensive federal legislation that would end the historically punitive approach to prohibiting cannabis use while striking a more appropriate balance between federal and state regulation.

[Read More](#)

ASAM and Coalition Partners Ask the FDA to Prohibit Menthol Cigarettes

On November 9, ASAM, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and 67 partner organizations sent a letter to Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn urging him to commence rulemaking to prohibit menthol as a characterizing flavor in cigarettes.

[Read More](#)

ASAM's Practice Management and Regulatory Affairs Committee (PMRAC) Seeking Applications

ASAM's PMRAC is seeking new members. PMRAC oversees ASAM's advocacy related to policies by federal regulatory agencies, public payers, private payers, and purchasers of health care goods and services. ASAM members with expertise in digital health, Medicare policy, and billing and coding are encouraged to apply.

[Apply Here](#)

HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND

AMA Presents Former ASAM Executive with Lifetime Achievement Honor



The American Medical Association recently honored former ASAM executive vice president and CEO Penny S. Mills with its Medical Executive Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Mills was recognized for leading ASAM in efforts to strengthen the political voice of the addiction medicine field through coalition-building efforts with federal and state legislators, working to eliminate barriers to medication for opioid use disorder treatment.

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ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES

Despite Efforts by Bowser and D.C. Council, Opioid Deaths Hit Record This Year



ASAM board member, Dr. Stephen Taylor, and ASAM member, Dr. Edwin Chapman, speak with The Washington Post about a surge in drug overdoses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Stakes are Life and Death”: Addiction Treatment’s Covid-19 Challenge

ASAM's immediate past president, Dr. Kelly Clark, discusses the need to increase access to addiction treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of the TREATS Act.

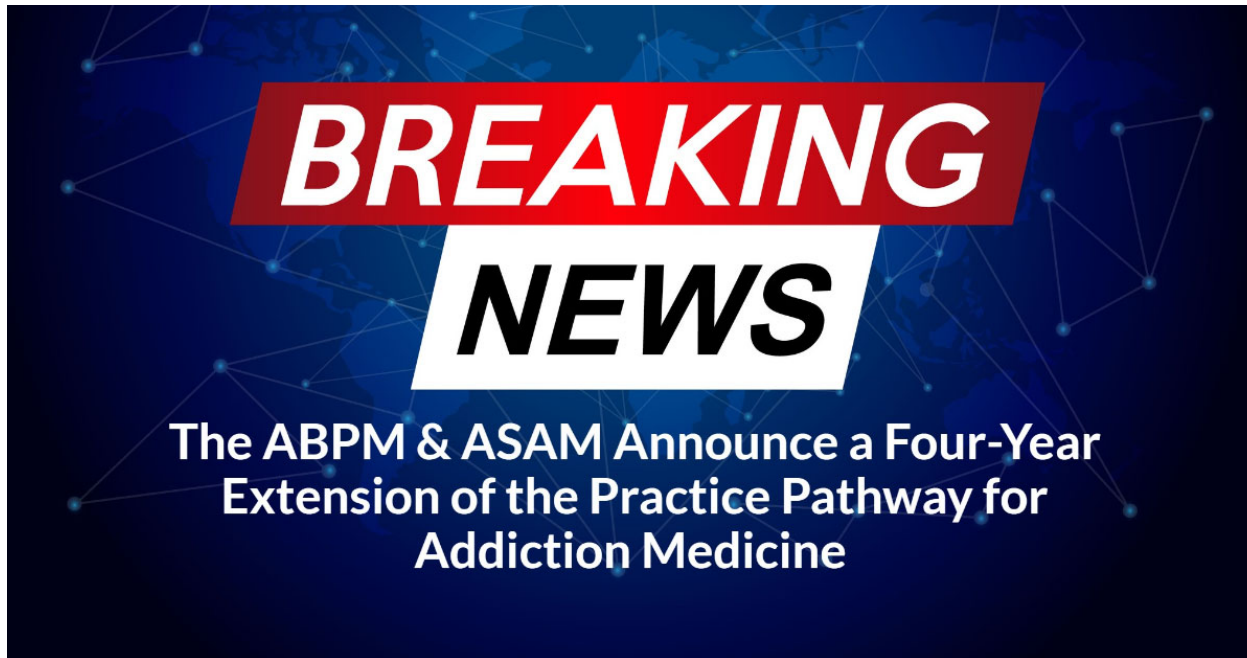


Opioid Use Treatment for Freed Inmates Banks on Medicaid Changes



ASAM members, Drs. Salisbury-Afshar and Potee, discuss the need for addiction treatment among people who are incarcerated.

ADDICTION POLICY **IN THE NEWS**



BREAKING
NEWS

The ABPM & ASAM Announce a Four-Year Extension of the Practice Pathway for Addiction Medicine

The American Board of Preventive Medicine and the American Society of Addiction Medicine Announce a Four-Year Extension of the Practice Pathway for Addiction Medicine

The American Board of Preventative Medicine

AMA to Push for Better Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatments

Tanya Albert Henry, American Medical Association

Rising Stimulant Deaths Show that We Face More than Just an Opioid Crisis

Dr. Nora Volkow, National Institute on Drug Abuse

U.N. Commission Removes Cannabis From Its Most Strict Drug Control List

Bill Chapell, NPR

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Value in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Initiative

Application Period
Open through January 3rd

CMS has announced the Request for Application open period (November 19, 2020 to January 3, 2021) for the Value in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Initiative. This is a 4-year, Medicare demonstration program and its purpose is to “increase access of applicable beneficiaries to opioid use disorder treatment services, improve physical and mental health outcomes for such beneficiaries, and to the extent possible, reduce [Medicare program expenditures].”

[Apply Here](#)



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