Eric Holder Seeks to Cut Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentences

The Justice Department will no longer pursue mandatory minimum sentences for certain low-level, nonviolent drug offenders, Attorney General Eric Holder said Monday, noting the nation is "coldly efficient in jailing criminals," but that it "cannot prosecute or incarcerate" its way to becoming safer.

See related stories:

- Real #DrugPolicyReform: DOJ's Change in Mandatory Minimum Policies (The White House)
- Real #DrugPolicyReform: DOJ's New Criteria on Compassionate Release Requests (The White House)

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Meaningful Use & Affordable Care

In 2014 the Affordable Care Act will allow more patients to access health care. The same year initiates Stage 2 of Meaningful Use, a phase that will implement better quality care for patients. How do you balance preparing for these changes with treating your current patients? By being proactive.

ASAM NEWS

ASAM Announces Associate Membership

ASAM Magazine
In an effort to increase access to and improve the quality of addiction treatment, ASAM will begin offering Associate Membership to professionals who spend at least 25 percent of their time teaching, conducting research, or providing clinical care for individuals who are at risk for or have a substance use disorder.

ASAM Opposes Legalization, Supports Treatment for Marijuana

An ASAM letter to Senators Grassley and Leahy reiterates ASAM's position opposing marijuana legalization and endorsing treatment over incarceration for individuals dependent on or addicted to marijuana.

Seizure Disorders Enter Medical Marijuana Debate

The role of cannabinoids in the treatment of seizure disorders in children has come under the spotlight in recent months amid a string of media reports of parents obtaining the substances in states where medical marijuana is now legal and claiming "miraculous" reductions in seizures with the treatment.

Hypnosedative Prescribing in Outpatient Addiction Medicine

The objective of this study was to describe hypnosedative (HS) prescribing patterns in a typical sample of psychiatric outpatients. HS prescribing in psychiatric illness is more common than in the general population, often longstanding, with polypharmacy being common.

FEATURED COMPANIES

Healing And Recovery Start Here
Finally, a hospital-based program in a calming beach resort-like setting. Treating adults for drug addiction, alcoholism and medication dependency. Call to learn more: (866) 633-6787.

Our Mission
To provide a compassionate and spiritual environment where those suffering from the disease of addiction can begin the journey to recovery...24 Hour Toll Free Helpline 1-855-859-8811.
Initial Evidence That OPRM1 Genotype Moderates Ventral and Dorsal Striatum Functional Connectivity During Alcohol Cues
Research Society on Alcoholism
Endogenous opioids and striatal dopamine have been implicated in cue-induced alcohol craving and have been hypothesized to play a role in goal-directed, as opposed to habitual, alcohol use.

Study: Physicians Ignoring Clinical Guidelines for Back Pain Treatment
JAMA Internal Medicine
Physicians are ignoring national guidelines from the American College of Physicians when treating patients with back pain. The group recommends the "use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs," such as ibuprofen and aspirin, combined with physical therapy. However, the study says physicians are instead "increasingly" prescribing patients with back pain "narcotic drugs, ordering expensive imaging tests or referring them to other physicians."

PRODUCT SHOWCASE
New Chronic Pain & Recovery Center
The Chronic Pain and Recovery Center is designed for individuals with a chronic pain syndrome that may include chemical dependence or abuse, depression and anxiety, social isolation, deconditioning of muscles, weight fluctuation, and sleep disturbance, all in addition to physical pain.

Practical Support Aids Addiction Recovery: The Positive Identity Model of Change
BMC Psychiatry
The objective was to develop a model of recovery by examining addicted individuals' social motivations through longitudinal assessment of non–professional support dyads.

Associations Among Hypothalamus-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis Function, Novelty Seeking, and Retention in Methadone Maintenance Therapy for Heroin Dependency
Journal of Addiction Medicine (free member resource)
The efficacy of methadone maintenance therapy for heroin dependence is compromised by the low retention rate. Hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis function, which is associated with stress response, and novelty seeking, a personality trait associated with low dopaminergic activity, may play a role in retention.
OxyContin Maker Closely Guards its List of Suspect Doctors

Los Angeles Times

Purdue Pharma has privately identified about 1,800 doctors who may have recklessly prescribed the painkiller to addicts and dealers, yet it has done little to alert authorities.

Researchers: Treatment for US Opioid Addicts Often Inadequate

PBS

Researchers say there are too many gaps between current treatment options for opioid drug abuse and the evidence-based practices utilized in much of the rest of the developed world.

FDA Considers Regulatory Action on Menthol Cigarettes

The New York Times

A preliminary assessment released by the Food and Drug Administration indicates that menthol-flavored cigarettes may pose a greater health risk than regular cigarettes. The Food and Drug Administration is issuing this advance notice of proposed rulemaking to obtain information related to the potential regulation of menthol in cigarettes.

Heroin Makes a Comeback

The Wall Street Journal

Heroin use in the U.S. is soaring, especially in rural areas, amid ample supply and a shift away from costlier prescription narcotics that are becoming tougher to acquire. The number of people who say they have used heroin in the past year jumped 53.5 percent to 620,000 between 2002 and 2011, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

New Vivitrol REMS Released

Vivitrol

The FDA has modified the Vivitrol REMS to highlight the potential risk of severe injection site reactions and to emphasize the importance of healthcare providers counseling their patients about the serious risks associated with Vivitrol.
The REMS program now includes

- Patient Counseling Tool
- Poster: Key Techniques to Reduce Severe Injection Site Reactions
- Revised Directions for Use section in Prescribing Information
- Medication Guide

For access to the above, visit www.vivitrolrems.com or call 1-800-848-4876, Option No. 1.

**CLINICAL GUIDELINES**

**FSMB Model Policy on DATA 2000 and Treatment of Opioid Addiction in the Medical Office**

*Federation of State Medical Boards*

Regardless of setting, the primary goals of addiction treatment are to reduce or stop opioid use, to improve the patient's overall health and social functioning, and to help the patient avoid some of the more serious consequences of opioid addiction. The Federation of State Medical Boards entered into an agreement with SAMHSA to develop model guidelines for use by state medical boards in regulating office-based treatment of addiction.

**Safe Opioid Prescribing — Module I — AMA CME**

*Pri-Med*

Module I: Evaluation is Essential for Safe and Effective Pain Management Using ER/LA Opioids

**ADVOCACY**

**SAMHSA: On Prescription Pain Medication Overdoses**

*ASAM Magazine*

Many of you will remember the period from 2005 through 2007 when illicit fentanyl-laced heroin caused a great number of overdose deaths. That was not the first time an illicit fentanyl, or fentanyl analogue, entered the drug market and likely will not be the last. Recently, small clusters of overdoses and overdose fatalities in a variety of communities — mostly in the eastern United States — have raised alarm. At this time, little is fully known about the situation, but it appears fentanyl analogues are involved in at least some of the cases and may contaminate both heroin and cocaine.

**EDUCATION AND RESOURCES**

**Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Health: Current Evidence**
Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Health: Current Evidence is a FREE online newsletter supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and published by the Clinical Addiction Research and Education (CARE) Unit at Boston University and Boston Medical Center summarizing the latest research on alcohol, illicit drugs, and health. It features dedicated sections on HIV/HCV and human-subjects research ethics as they relate to substance use. Free CME credit and downloadable teaching presentations with each issue. Subscribe today!

Phone Application: 'Safe Opioid Prescribing' Available for iPhone, Android and on the Web

Safe Opioid Prescribing brings together evidence-based resources for clinicians regarding safe and effective use of medications.

To access on Android: Click on the Google Play Store, click the search icon, enter "Safe Opioids," click the first app which appears "Safe Opioids," click "Install," and click "Accept." When the app has downloaded click "Open" to access the app.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy 23rd Birthday ADA

SAMHSA
Twenty-three years ago, on July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA was the world's first comprehensive civil rights legislation for people with disabilities — including people with behavioral health conditions (mental and substance use disorders). The ADA represented a historic landmark in our nation's commitment to equal opportunity for all of its citizens.

45th Annual Med-Sci Conference — Call for Abstracts

ASAM
ASAM encourages young investigators, researchers, and physicians from diverse organizations and populations to submit abstracts. Abstracts should be original, new work with up-to-date data and comply with all rules and regulations.

TRENDING ARTICLES

Missed last week’s issue? See which articles your colleagues read most.

New Drug Czar Sought By Obama Administration (Treatment Magazine)
FSMB Approves New Model Pain Policy (Federation of State Medical Boards)
Can Obesity Be an Addiction? (Medscape Today — free registration)
A Call For Evidence-Based Medical Treatment Of Opioid Dependence In The United States
CHAPTER NEWS

Tennessee Controlled Substance Monitoring Database

Department of Health

In the recent electronic survey of Controlled Substance Monitoring Database prescribers, one of the most frequent requests is to have access to dispensing records from other states. Given that Tennessee is surrounded by eight other states, and that patients may travel hundreds of miles for a prescription, the need for such access is clear. The Prescription Safety Act of 2012 authorized the sharing of prescription data with other states to improve patient safety and help deter diversion. Other states are expected to follow this lead soon.

ASAM EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>More Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 29-30</td>
<td>3rd Addiction Medicine Conference</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
<td>TNSAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>ASAM's ER/LA Opioid REMS Course</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
<td>TNSAM</td>
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<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Tennessee Chapter Meeting</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
<td>TNSAM</td>
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<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>OkSAM Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>ASAM's ER/LA Opioid REMS Course</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>OkSAM</td>
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<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>NJSAM-sponsored CME: &quot;These are NOT Your Drugs of Choice: A Primer for Recognition and Treatment of Party and Club Designer Drug Use&quot;</td>
<td>Toms River, NJ</td>
<td>George Sollami, 310-953-7071</td>
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<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>PSAM Conference</td>
<td>Wernersville, PA</td>
<td>PSAM</td>
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<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>ASAM's ER/LA Opioid REMS Course</td>
<td>Savannah, GA</td>
<td>GaSAM</td>
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<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>PAPNJ's 2013 Annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Westampton, NJ</td>
<td>Call 609-919-1660</td>
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<td>Oct. 16-19</td>
<td>CSAM State of the Art in Addiction Medicine</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>CSAM</td>
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<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>ASAM's ER/LA Opioid REMS Course</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>CSAM</td>
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<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>ASAM Legislative Day Arlington</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>ASAM</td>
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<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>ASAM's ER/LA Opioid REMS Course</td>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
<td>ASAM</td>
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<td>Oct. 24-26</td>
<td>ASAM's State of the Art Course in Addiction Medicine — Emerging</td>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
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<td>Problems and Advances in Addiction Treatment</td>
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<td>Dec. 6-8</td>
<td>Comprehensive MRO (Medical Review Officer) Course</td>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
<td>ASAM</td>
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**CALENDAR**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 23</td>
<td>ASPMN Webinar — Face the Dragon with Improved Documentation</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>ASPMN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 27-29</td>
<td>26th Annual National Prevention Network Prevention Research Conference</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>NPN</td>
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<td>Aug. 29-31</td>
<td>Narcotics Anonymous World Convention</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Narcotics Anonymous</td>
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<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Webinar: Marijuana SBIRT</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Register</td>
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<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>PCSS-O Training: Drug Trends: Old Drugs and New Problems — New Drugs</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>PCSS-O</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and New Problems</td>
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<td>Sept. 9-12</td>
<td>New England School of Best Practices in Addiction Treatment</td>
<td>Waterville, NH</td>
<td>NEIAS</td>
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<td>Sept. 11-14</td>
<td>Substance Abuse Program Administrators Association 2013 Annual</td>
<td>Henderson, NV</td>
<td>SAPAA</td>
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<td>Conference</td>
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<td>Sept. 12-15</td>
<td>26th Annual Cape Cod Symposium on Addictive Disorders</td>
<td>Hyannis, MA</td>
<td>CCSAD</td>
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<td>Paradigm for the Epidemic</td>
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<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Rally for Recovery</td>
<td>Providence, RI</td>
<td>Rally4Recovery</td>
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<td>Sept. 21-23</td>
<td>The Behavioral Healthcare Leadership Summit</td>
<td>Anaheim, CA</td>
<td>Behavioral Healthcare</td>
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<td>Sept. 21-25</td>
<td>2013 National Conference on Addiction Disorders</td>
<td>Anaheim, CA</td>
<td>The National Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 22-24</td>
<td>American College of Clinical Pharmacology</td>
<td>Bethesda, MD</td>
<td>ACCP</td>
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2013 Annual Meeting

Sept. 23-26 Moments in Change — Innovations in Integrated Treatment Palm Beach, FL Foundations

Sept. 25-27 Utah Fall Substance Abuse Conference St. Geoge, UT UtahFallConference.org

Sept. 26-29 Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine Upcoming Conference Vancouver, British Columbia CSAM

Oct. 11-14 NAADAC National Conference Atlanta NAADAC

Oct. 26-30 Conference on Correctional Health Care Highlights Mental Health in Corrections Nashville, TN NCCHC

Nov. 7-9 The 37th AMERSA Annual National Conference Bethesda, MD AMERSA

Nov. 8-10 UF Chronic Pain and Addiction in Primary Care Conference Gainesville, FL University of Florida

Nov. 9-13 2013 AATOD Conference Philadelphia AATOD

ASAM Weekly

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