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Nov. 26, 2013



**ASAM** The Voice of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Addiction Medicine

**ASAM  
Weekly**

Editor-in-Chief: Richard G. Soper, MD, JD, MS, FASAM

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## Synthetic Cannabinoids: A New Frontier of Designer Drugs

*Annals of Internal Medicine*

Synthetic cannabinoid use has increased in the United States. The consequences are dangerous, and public health concern about these products has led to international control efforts. This commentary discusses the difficulties associated with regulating use and the need for research.

**Resource:** [National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws](#)

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#### [Motivational Interviewing: Being Thankful](#)

Being thankful can be difficult when you're actively struggling with addiction. Your patients may have even spent last Thanksgiving using substances. While the holidays can bring out stress in everyone, you can help your patients reflect on why they're thankful by using these motivational interviewing strategies.

### RESEARCH

## Opioid Utilization and Opioid-Related Adverse Events in Nonsurgical Patients in US Hospitals

*Journal of Hospital Medicine*

More than half the people hospitalized for medical reasons are given prescription opiates, often in large doses, say Boston researchers who examined nonsurgical treatment at 286 hospitals throughout the United States.

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**Economic Evaluation: A Comparison of Methadone Versus Buprenorphine for Opiate Substitution Treatment**

**Drug and Alcohol Dependence**

The cost of opiate substitution is usually considered lower when methadone is used, as compared to that of buprenorphine, however the overall cost effectiveness of substitution programs comparing the two drugs remains largely unknown.

**See related:**

- [From Methadone to Buprenorphine: Changes During a 10 Year Period Within a National Opioid Maintenance Treatment Program](#) (Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment)

**Gender-Sensitive Substance Abuse Treatment and Arrest Outcomes for Women**

**Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment**

The present study links an empirically–developed quantitative measure of gender–sensitive substance abuse treatment to arrest outcomes among 5,109 substance abusing women.



**Mortality After Prison Release: Opioid Overdose and Other Causes of Death, Risk Factors, and Time Trends from 1999 to 2009**

**Annals of Internal Medicine**

Among former prisoners, a high rate of death has been documented in the early postrelease period, particularly from drug-related causes. Little is known about risk factors and trends in postrelease mortality in the past decade, especially given general population increases in overdose deaths from pharmaceutical opioids.

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## Acute Effects of Heroin on Negative Emotional Processing: Relation of Amygdala Activity and Stress-Related Responses

Biological Psychiatry Journal

Negative emotional states and abnormal stress reactivity are central components in drug addiction. The brain stress system in the amygdala is thought to play a key role in the maintenance of drug dependence through negative reinforcement.

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### See related:

- [Acute Effects of Heroin on Emotions in Heroin-Dependent Patients](#) (The American Journal on Addictions)

## IN THE MEDIA

### Mental Health Stigma Addressed

American Public Health Association

In a historic first, the *American Journal of Public Health* devoted an issue to covering stigma and discrimination against people with mental illnesses, a topic that traditionally is underresearched and underreported.

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### Who Is Responsible for the Pain-Pill Epidemic?

The New Yorker

Between 1999 and 2010, sales of medications like Vicodin, Percocet, and OxyContin quadrupled. By 2010, the United States, with about 5 percent of the world's population, was consuming 99 percent of the world's hydrocodone (the narcotic in Vicodin), along with 80 percent of the oxycodone (in Percocet and OxyContin), and 65 percent of the hydromorphone (in Dilaudid).

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### For Veterans with PTSD, a New Demon: Their Meds

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The Wall Street Journal

PTSD and painkillers are the twin pillars of a new mental-health crisis in America. Many of the more than two million Americans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from a mixture of pain and PTSD. The VA treats many of them with powerful opioid painkillers for their pain. But opioids can be a combustible mix with mental illness because of a heightened addiction risk.

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- [VA's Malpractice Tab: \\$845 Million in 10 Years](#) (WSB-TV)

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**[New Chronic Pain & Recovery Center](#)**

The Chronic Pain and Recovery Center is one of the few programs in the nation designed specifically for people with chemical dependency, addiction, and/or mental health issues in addition to chronic physical pain. The goal of treatment is for each individual to live a more functional, gratifying life.

**PUBLIC POLICY & REGULATORY NEWS**

**CDC Press Release: Emerging Tobacco Products Gaining Popularity Among Youth**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

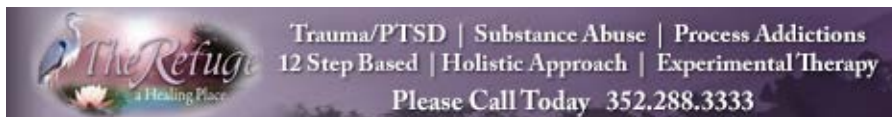
Emerging tobacco products such as e-cigarettes and hookahs are quickly gaining popularity among middle- and high-school students, according to a report in a recent *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

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**See related:**

- [CDC: Makers of E-Cigarettes, Little Cigars Target Kids](#) (USA Today)



**CLINICAL GUIDELINES**

**New Review Gives High Marks to 2 of 13 Opioid Guidelines**

Annals of Internal Medicine

Of 13 opioid prescribing guidelines assessed in a new systematic review, evaluators gave high

**COMPREHENSIVE MRO**

Toxicology Testing and the Physician's Role in the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse



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ratings to two, deemed seven others to be of intermediate quality, and recommended against using four guidelines.

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## New Movement Urges Physicians to Disclose Conflicts of Interest

Medscape (free registration)

Next year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will publish how much money individual physicians receive from drug and device makers to shine a light on possible conflicts of interest in clinical decision-making.

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### See related:

- [Conflicts of Interest: Concepts, Conundrums, and Course of Action](#) (Medscape — free registration)

## A Risk Stratification Approach to Alcohol Detoxification

Psychiatric Times

The challenges of identifying patients at risk for alcohol withdrawal have been found to be mitigated by the development of a Risk Stratification Questionnaire, employed by the VA in West Haven, Connecticut. It is now being adopted by the VA regionally throughout New England.

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### See related:

- [Screening for Alcohol and Drug Use Disorders Among Adults in Primary Care: A Review](#) (NCBI)
- [Alcohol and Substance Abuse Evaluation](#) (Medscape — free registration)

## Addressing Viral Hepatitis in People With Substance Use Disorders

SAMSHA

This resource offers clinicians information to address viral hepatitis when working with people with substance use disorders. It covers hepatitis prevention, screening, treatment, and service coordination, and guides administrators on how to add or improve hepatitis services.

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## EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

## Diagnosing Psychiatric Disorders: The Synchronization of DSM-5 and ICD-10-CM

Psychiatric Times

This article provides an overview of the changes in DSM-5 and a review of how DSM-5 relates to ICD-10-CM.

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## TRENDING ARTICLES

## Educational Resources

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**FEATURED RESOURCE**  
[Opioid Prescribing Tools](#)

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

- [Addiction Treatment With a Dark Side](#) (The New York Times)
- [You Can't Treat Addiction with Willpower and Denial](#) (The Globe and Mail)
- [Baclofen for Alcohol Dependence in France: Incidence of Treated Patients and Prescription Patterns — A Cohort Study](#) (European Neuropsychopharmacology)
- [Determinants of Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Dependence](#) (Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment)
- [The Latent Structure and Predictors of Nonmedical Prescription Drug Use and Prescription Drug Use Disorders: A National Study](#) (Drug and Alcohol Dependence)

## ASAM EVENTS

Events

Conferences

Clinical Training

Date	Event	Location	More Information
Dec. 5	UtSAM — ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Salt Lake City	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
Dec. 6-8	Comprehensive MRO (Medical Review Officer) Course	Arlington, VA	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
Dec. 10	<a href="#">ASAM's ER/LA Opioid REMS Course</a>	Waltham, MA	MASAM
Jan. 15	Northeast South Dakota AHEC — ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Aberdeen, SD	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
Jan. 18	ISAM - ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Winfield, IL	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
Jan. 23	Foothills AHEC — ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Gainesville, GA	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
Feb. 7-8	NYSAM 10th Annual Statewide Conference	New York	<a href="#">NYSAM</a>
Feb. 11	Upstate AHEC — ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Greenville, SC	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
Feb. 17	Lowcountry AHEC — ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	North Charleston, NC	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
Feb. 20	Mid-Carolina AHEC — ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Multiple locations: Columbia, Lancaster, Camden, and Newberry, SC	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
March 1	FSAM — ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Orlando, FL	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
March 15	ISAM — ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Peoria, IL	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
March 29	AzSAM 2014 Spring Conference	Phoenix	<a href="#">AzSAM</a>

April 10	Med-Sci 2014 Pre-Conference Course: ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Orlando, FL	<a href="#">ASAM</a>
April 15	Pee-Dee AHEC - ER/LA Opioid REMS Course	Florence, SC	<a href="#">ASAM</a>

## CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	More Information
Dec. 4	Webinar: Brief Intervention for Marijuana	Online	<a href="#">Register</a>
Dec. 4-6	Addictions and Their Treatment Courses (previously known as Review Course)	Scottsdale, AZ	<a href="#">AAAP</a>
Dec. 5-8	<a href="#">AAAP Annual Meeting and Symposium</a>	Scottsdale, AZ	<a href="#">AAAP</a>

### ASAM Weekly

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