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**Subject:** APA Headlines: Despite Increases In Autism Treatment, Insurance Mandates Not Reaching Most Children With The Condition, Study Indicates  
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

July 12, 2016

### Leading The News

## Despite Increases In Autism Treatment, Insurance Mandates Not Reaching Most Children With The Condition, Study Indicates.

[US News & World Report](#) (7/11, Leonard) reports that [research](#) indicates "state laws that require health insurance companies to cover autism treatment still aren't reaching the vast majority of children with the disorder." The findings were published in JAMA Pediatrics. Investigators "found that in states without insurance mandates, the treated prevalence of autism was 1.6 per 1,000 children, compared with 1.8 per 1,000 children in states with insurance mandates." Although "the difference represents an increase in treated prevalence of 12.7 percent, the higher total still makes up only a small fraction of the" CDC's "estimate of 15 in 1,000 children who have autism."

[HealthDay](#) (7/11) reports that since Indiana first implemented insurance mandates 15 years ago, "43 other states have also made autism treatment more accessible to families that couldn't afford it."

[MedPage Today](#) (7/11, Walker) also covers the story.

### Psychiatric News Alert



[Study Suggests Adjunctive Brexpiprazole May Reduce Irritability in Patients With MDD](#)

[CMS Announces Medicare Coverage of Psychiatric Consultations in Collaborative Care](#)

Free Course of the Month: [Updates in Neuropsychiatry: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: What Electrophysiology and Neuroimaging Can Tell Us](#)

The two central symptoms of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) are severe, disabling fatigue and cognitive impairment, also known as 'brain fog.' Neuroimaging and neuropsychological studies have produced mixed results when trying to locate the structural changes responsible for these two key symptoms. The course will address neuropsychiatric presentations of CFS as well as the most recent EEG data describing possible underlying pathophysiology.

[Learn more](#) or [take the July course](#).

Upcoming free course for August: Why are childhood precursors important in personality disorders?



### Psychiatric Medication Update

## Physician Says Antidepressants Are "Reliable" In Severe And Mild Depression.

In an opinion piece for [STAT](#) (7/11) titled "Excavating The Truth About Who Benefits From Antidepressants," Peter D. Kramer, MD, clinical professor emeritus of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University, writes, "the ultimate test of a depression treatment is whether it works." Dr. Kramer adds, "The lesson I've learned from reviewing the medical literature in detail is that antidepressants are reliable in severe and mild depressions alike."

### Other News

## Article Debunks Myths About Mental Illness.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (7/11, Ostrov) discusses and debunks four myths about mental illness. The article points out that “nearly 20 percent of American adults will suffer from a mental illness at some point in a given year, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.”

## Head Injuries May Be Linked To Higher Risk Of Parkinson’s.

[TIME](#) (7/11, Park) reports a new [study](#) published in JAMA Neurology suggests head injuries may be linked to a higher risk of Parkinson’s disease. Study participants who had reported head injuries saw a 3.5 times higher chance of developing symptoms of Parkinson’s compared to those who did not report head injuries. The study, however, did not find a correlation between reported head injuries and a higher risk of dementia or Alzheimer’s.

[HealthDay](#) (7/11, Reinberg) reports that the research also showed a link between traumatic head injuries and a “greater risk of microscopic stroke.”

## Several Common Operations Can Increase Patient’s Risk Of Becoming Addicted To Opioids, Study Suggests.

[HealthDay](#) (7/11) reports several common operations can slightly increase a patient’s risk of becoming addicted to opioids, according to a new [study](#) published in JAMA Internal Medicine. Researchers examined the number of opioid prescriptions patients filled before and after 11 common operations in order to determine how many patients became addicted to opioids following surgery.

[MedPage Today](#) (7/11, Fiore) reports the 11 procedures that the study focused on were: “total knee arthroplasty, total hip arthroplasty, laparoscopic cholecystectomy, open cholecystectomy, laparoscopic appendectomy, open appendectomy, cesarean delivery, functional endoscopic sinus surgery [FESS], cataract surgery, transurethral prostate resection [TURP], and simple mastectomy.” Researchers found that some of the procedures, including total knee arthroplasty, laparoscopic cholecystectomy [gall bladder removal], and cesarean delivery, increased patients’ risk for becoming addicted to opioids, while there was no increased risk of opioid addiction for patients who underwent “cataract surgery, laparoscopic appendectomy, FESS, and TURP.”

### Monday’s Lead Stories

- [Patients With Mental Health Disorders Appear To Have A Markedly Reduced Suicide Risk At The Weekend, Research Suggests.](#)
- [Congress Likely To Pass Bill To Address Opioid Abuse.](#)
- [White Matter Changes May Persist Half A Year After Concussions In Young Athletes, Small Scan Study Suggests.](#)

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