

From: [APA Communications](#)
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Subject: APA Headlines: White House Task Force Report Outlines Actions, Recommendations To Increase Compliance With Mental Health And Substance Use Disorder Parity Protections
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

October 31, 2016

Leading The News

White House Task Force Report Outlines Actions, Recommendations To Increase Compliance With Mental Health And Substance Use Disorder Parity Protections.

[Medscape](#) (10/28, Brooks) reported, "In its [final report](#), the White House's Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force" outlined "a series of actions and recommendations" to increase "compliance with mental health parity laws." Those actions "include \$9.3 million in funds from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to states to help insurance regulators monitor compliance with mental health and substance use disorder parity protections." For its part, "'the American Psychiatric Association (APA) ;welcomes this much-needed report to strengthen implementation and enforcement of existing mental health parity laws,' APA President Maria A. Oquendo, MD, PhD, said in a statement." Dr. Oquendo added, "Full implementation and stronger enforcement will help ensure that psychiatric conditions are treated the same as other illnesses and individuals can access the treatment they need." APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, MD, MPA, stated, "APA trusts that Congress and the Administration will work together to ensure that the recommendations become reality."

[Psychiatric News](#) (10/28) reported the report recommended "development of a beta version of a new parity website to help consumers find the appropriate federal or state agency to assist with their parity complaints, appeals, and other actions; a 'Consumer Guide to Disclosure Rights' to help consumers and" mental health professionals "understand what type of information to ask for when inquiring about a plan's compliance with parity; and providing guidance on the application of parity to opioid use disorder treatment." In addition, "longer-term recommendations include increasing federal agencies' capacity to audit health plans for parity compliance and allowing the Department of Labor to assess civil monetary penalties for parity violations."

Psychiatric News Alert



[White House Task Force Issues Report on Improving Parity Implementation, Compliance](#)

[Ketamine Clinics Attract Patients Despite Unknowns](#)

Join Call on How to Report Across 2016 Medicare Quality Programs – Nov. 1

Learn how to report quality measures during the 2016 program year to maximize your participation in the Medicare quality programs, including PQRS, Medicare Electronic Health Record Incentive Program, Value-Based Payment Modifier and Medicare Shared Savings Program. Satisfactory reporters will avoid the 2018 PQRS negative payment adjustment, satisfy the clinical quality measure component of the EHR Incentive Program and satisfy requirements for the Value Modifier to avoid the downward payment adjustment. The call will be held Tuesday, Nov. 1, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern. See the [call detail page](#).

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Screening For Postpartum Depression In Pediatric ED Effective, Accepted Among Moms Of Young Infants, Small Study Suggests.

[Healio](#) (10/28, Oldt) reported, "Screening for postpartum depression in a pediatric" emergency department (ED) "was effective and accepted among mothers of young infants," researchers found after conducting "a prospective, cross-sectional survey of mothers of children aged 6 months or younger who presented with low-acuity complaints (n = 209)." The findings were presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition.

Teen Athletes With AD/HD May Be More Likely Than Their Peers To Report Concussion-Like Symptoms During Preseason Baseline Tests, Study Indicates.

[Medscape](#) (10/28, Salamon) reported, "Teenage athletes with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder [AD/HD] are more likely than their peers to report concussion-like symptoms during preseason baseline tests," researchers found after analyzing data from a "cross-sectional study of 37,510 high school athletes from Maine." The findings were presented at the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation's 2016 Annual Assembly.

Young People With Chronic Liver Disease And Who May Have Undergone Liver Transplant May Experience High Levels Of Depression, Anxiety, Small Study Suggests.

[Healio](#) (10/28, Stevens) reported, "Young people with chronic liver disease and who may have undergone liver transplant experience high levels of depression and anxiety," researchers found after administering "an electronic questionnaire routinely to patients attending an outpatient liver transition clinic." The [findings](#) of the 182-patient study were published online Oct. 26 in Liver Transplantation.

Psychiatry and Public Health

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All States Lack A Sufficient Number Of Child Psychiatrists, Professional Groups Say.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Vander Schaaff) reported that currently, "not a single state has what professional groups deem a sufficient number of child psychiatrists." It is estimated that there is just "one psychiatrist per 1,807 children who need services in the" US. Meanwhile, a [report](#) recently released by Mental Health America revealed that "rates of depression among young people rose from 8.5 percent to 11.1 percent from 2011 to 2014 and that 80 percent of youth with severe depression receive no treatment or insufficient treatment."

Using A Telemedicine Evaluation For Pediatric Mental Health Emergencies In The ED Or Urgent Care Facilities May Improve Access To Mental Health Services And Reduce Costs.

[Healio](#) (10/28, Oldt) reported, "Using a telemedicine evaluation for pediatric mental health emergencies in" emergency department (ED) "or urgent care facilities may improve access to mental health services and reduce costs," researchers found after conducting "a retrospective chart review of 504 individuals aged 18 years or younger who presented to five ED or urgent care sites with mental health emergencies." The findings were presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition.

APA in the News

Opinion: Lawsuit Against Marriage And Family Counselors Is "Wholly Unnecessary."

Sarah Woods, a marriage and family therapist in Denton, Texas, writes in an opinion piece in the [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/27) that the Texas Medical Association's lawsuit seeking to prevent marriage and family counselors from being able to diagnose mental health conditions is a "wholly unnecessary battle over territory." Woods points out that the American Psychiatric Association has "explicitly stated that family therapists independently diagnose," and that the Texas Medical Board is not participating in the TMA's lawsuit. Woods argues that marriage and family therapists have the necessary training to help improve mental healthcare in Texas, but the TMA's lawsuit could further exacerbate the state's ongoing mental health crisis in order "to defend physicians' turf."

Psychiatric Medication Update

Brain Waves May Quickly Predict Which Individuals Will Respond Favorably To Escitalopram, Small Study Suggests.

[Medical Daily](#) (10/28, Dovey) reported that researchers "have found a way to use brain waves to quickly predict which individuals will respond favorably to" the antidepressant Lexapro (escitalopram). In the study, investigators "analyzed data from 194 people, 18 to 70 years old, with major depressive disorder," all of whom were randomized into "three groups, two of which were treated with escitalopram for seven weeks, and a third group of 48 patients treated with a placebo." Study participants were given electroencephalograms before

and after treatment. People who responded favorably to escitalopram had “brain wave recordings” that “differed significantly from those who did not benefit.” The [findings](#) were published online in the Journal of Psychiatric Research.

Friday's Lead Stories

- **Veterans May Be More Likely To Commit Suicide During The First Year After Leaving The Military, Study Indicates.**
- **CMS Blocking More Insurers From “Seamless Conversion.”**
- **Patient Information Program Appears To Increase Adherence To Paliperidone Palmitate Or Risperidone, Research Suggests.**
- **Dementia Can Wreak Havoc On Even The Best Financial Planning For Retirement.**

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