

Addiction Medicine Advocacy Highlights

ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

POLICY STATEMENTS

CONTACT US



THE ASAM ADVOCATE

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



NATIONAL

Portman, Whitehouse Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Increase Access to Telehealth Services for Substance Use Disorder Treatment

On June 30, Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) announced the introduction of the Telehealth Response for E-prescribing Addiction Therapy Services (TREATS) Act. The legislation would expand access to addiction treatment by creating a new, permanent, audio-video telehealth evaluation exception to the Ryan Haight Act's in-person exam requirement for the purposes of prescribing Schedule III and IV medications, including buprenorphine. The bill would also clarify Medicare's continued ability to reimburse for audio-only SUD telehealth services after an in-person or telehealth evaluation.

[Read More](#)

ASAM Urges Congress to Provide Additional Funding to State Medicaid Programs

On June 25, the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), of which ASAM is a member, sent a letter to Senators Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) urging them to provide additional federal support for state Medicaid programs by increasing the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) by an additional 7.8 percent points.

[Read More](#)

ICYMI: CPT Codes Now Provide for Separate Reimbursement for “Interprofessional Telephone/Internet/Electronic Health Record Consultation”

There are now separately reimbursable “Interprofessional Telephone/Internet/Electronic Health Record Consultation” CPT codes that describe assessment and management services furnished when a patient’s treating physician or other qualified health care professional (OQHCP) requests the opinion and/or treatment advice of a physician (or OQHCP, if eligible) with specialty expertise (the consultant) to assist in the diagnosis and/or management of the patient’s problem without the patient’s face-to-face contact with the consultant. The American Psychiatric Association has created resources for psychiatrists about these codes.

[Read more](#) (See APA’s first bullet point under “Codes to Know”)

STATE

COSAM Urges Governor Polis to Sign Legislation Requiring Use of The ASAM Criteria by Insurers

On June 23, the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine sent a letter to Governor Polis, urging him to sign SB20-007. The bill would require insurers to provide coverage for substance use disorder treatment through the use of The ASAM Criteria for placement, medical necessity, and utilization management determinations, among other provisions.

[Read More](#)

KYSAM Urges Governor Beshear to Lift Prior Authorization Requirements on MAT

On June 9, the Kentucky Society of Addiction Medicine sent a letter to Governor Beshear, urging him to exercise his executive powers and remove prior authorization requirements on all forms of medication for addiction treatment (MAT) to ensure individuals suffering from opioid use disorder (OUD) can access treatment.

[Read More](#)

HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND

Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose (CSOO) and the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) Host Roundtable Discussion with Congressman Kevin Hern



On June 30, the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) and the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose (CSOO) held a virtual roundtable discussion with Congressman Kevin Hern (R-OK) on Congressional efforts to alleviate mental health and addiction challenges during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

[Read More](#)

3rd Safe Prescribing Event: Addressing Concurrent Opioid and CNS Depressant Medications Webinar Event

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Public Health, Education, and Treatment (PHET) Task Force will host a webinar to communicate the Trump Administration's continued dedication of ensuring safe prescribing practices and emphasize the essential need of safe prescribing education throughout the medical community.

To attend the webinar, [register here](#)

ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES

A New Addiction Crisis: Treatment Centers Face Financial Collapse



National Public Radio's All Things Considered interviews Dr. Yngvild Olsen, vice president of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, about the financial challenges that addiction treatment facilities are facing amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

When Epidemics Collide: COVID-19 Upends Opioid Addiction Treatment

Medscape Medical News interviews Dr. Emily Brunner, immediate past president of the Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine, and Dr. Melissa Weimer, ASAM Board Member, about treatment barriers that addiction medicine physicians are facing and their experiences with telemedicine in the midst of the pandemic.



ADDICTION POLICY **IN THE NEWS**



The Opioid Crisis in America: Domestic and International Dimensions

Vanda Felbab-Brown, Jonathan P. Caulkins, Carol Graham, Keith Humphreys, Rosalie Liccario Pacula, Bryce Pardo, Peter Reuter, Bradley D. Stein, and Paul H. Wise, The Brookings Institute

Oklahoma Voters Approve Medicaid Expansion as Coronavirus Cases Climb

Rachel Roubein, Politico

As Suicide, Addiction Death Projections Soar Amid COVID-19, Treatment Centers Struggle to Stay Alive Too

Jayne O'Donnell, USA Today

Barriers to Addiction Care Fell Because of COVID-19. Now the Challenge is Keeping Them Down

Kara Gavin, University of Michigan Health Lab

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Share on Twitter

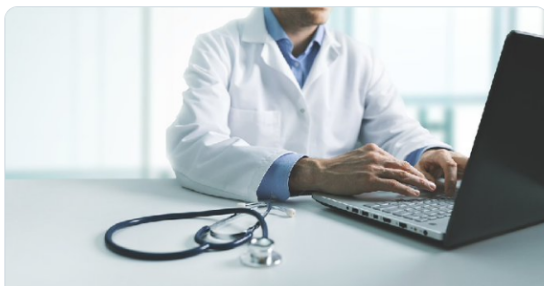
Help ASAM thank Senators Rob Portman and Sheldon Whitehouse for their leadership in introducing the TREATS Act, by retweeting [this tweet](#) and commenting “Thank You”:



Rob Portman
@senrobportman

The coronavirus pandemic has taken a particularly tough toll on those grappling with addiction. Telehealth waivers have helped by bolstering access to care & treatment.

Today, I introduced bipartisan legislation to make these telehealth advances permanent moving forward.



Portman introduces telehealth bill
[senate.gov](#)

Before You Go

Take Action

Remember to write your US Senators about prioritizing funding for mental health and addiction treatment in the next COVID-19 legislative package.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine
11400 Rockville Pike, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20852
Questions? advocacy@asam.org | 301.656.3920
[Unsubscribe](#) | [Preferences](#)

The ASAM Advocate eNewsletter

Kelly M. Corredor: Chief Advocacy Officer
Susan E. Awad: Senior Advisor, Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Zachary Semple: Manager, State Advocacy & Government Relations

You are a subscriber to advocacy updates from ASAM.