

Dear Colleague:

NOV 18

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) in conjunction with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) of 2008 has already provided an opportunity for new or expanded behavioral health benefits to approximately 60 million Americans and has created programs designed to help States and communities prevent illness and promote health.

Through the ACA, there have been major strides in expanding access to preventive health care, and the treatment of addiction and co-occurring disorders in opioid treatment programs (OTPs). New health plans must now cover hepatitis C routine screening for individuals at high-risk, intravenous drug users, as well as one-time screening for adults born between 1945 and 1965. This preventive service has allowed more Americans to know their status and seek treatment in addressing the Nation's silent hepatitis C epidemic.

ACA remains a priority, not only for the Department of Health and Human Services, but for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as well. For a review of SAMHSA's enrollment initiatives, please feel free to visit the official website of Health Insurance Marketplace (<http://www.healthcare.gov>). The following additional resources are available to assist your program and patients with the enrollment process.

- <https://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/c2c.html>; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Coverage to Care Initiative to help individuals understand health coverage and how to navigate the health care system (includes Spanish materials).
- [www.samhsa.gov/health-financing/enrollment-initiatives-research](http://www.samhsa.gov/health-financing/enrollment-initiatives-research); SAMHSA's Enrollment Initiatives and Research covers enrollment and outreach programs benefiting people with behavioral health disorders.
- [www.samhsa.gov/health-financing](http://www.samhsa.gov/health-financing); new SAMHSA Health Financing page that discusses the impact of legislation on the delivery and financing of health care and how SAMHSA helps providers adapt to the new health care environment.

SAMHSA strongly encourages all OTPs to assist their patients during the upcoming enrollment period (November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015). The above resources are intended to help people who are seeking treatment from OTPs to benefit from the health insurance marketplace and Medicaid expansion.

Sincerely,

[Signed by Daryl W. Kade]

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