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**Subject:** APA Headlines: Many Seniors Erroneously Denied Medicare Coverage  
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

September 13, 2016

## Leading The News

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### Many Seniors Erroneously Denied Medicare Coverage.

The [New York Times](#) (9/13, D5, Span, Subscription Publication) reports that beneficiaries are often told Medicare will no longer cover physical therapy or nursing home stays because they are "stable and chronic," or have reached "maximum functional capacity," or they have plateaued. Seniors "with chronic and progressive diseases – dementia, Parkinson's, heart failure" – are typically given this incorrect assessment, even though a 2013 settlement of a class-action suit mandated that Medicare "cover skilled care and therapy when they are 'necessary to maintain the patient's current condition or prevent or slow further deterioration.'" In addition, last month, a Federal judge ordered CMS "to do a better job of informing health care" professionals "and Medicare adjudicators that the so-called improvement standard was no longer in effect." The judge said that while CMS does not have to further update its manuals, it must do a better job of educating the medical community about

these changes.



## Psychiatric News Alert



### [Study Reveals PTSD Trajectories for 9/11 Responders Over 12-Year Period](#)

### [Electronic Health Records Help Predict Suicidal Behavior](#)

### Considering incorporating telepsychiatry in your practice?

Dr. Donald M. Hilty addresses feasibility, validity and clinical outcome evidence for this emerging practice. [Watch the video.](#)

APA's [Telepsychiatry Toolkit](#) is an evolving resource for members who want to learn about the various aspects of telepsychiatry, including clinical, training and policy considerations. See more videos on other telepsychiatry specifics from APA experts, as well as other telepsychiatry resources, on the online APA [Telepsychiatry Toolkit](#).



## Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

**Suicide Prevention Interventions For Sexual And Gender Minority Youth Appear To Be Lacking, Review Indicates.**

[Healio](#) (9/12, Oldt) reports a [review](#) published online June 27 in LGBT Health concluded “suicide prevention interventions for sexual and gender minority youth are lacking, despite higher rates of suicidal thoughts and behaviors among this population.” The review’s authors “suggest research methodologies be adapted to unique needs of sexual and gender minority youth at risk for suicide.”

## **College Students Who Experienced Childhood Bullying, Victimization May Be More Likely To Report Symptoms Of Depression, Anxiety, And PTSD, Research Suggests.**

[Healio](#) (9/12, Oldt) reported, “College students who experienced childhood bullying and victimization were more likely to report symptoms of depression, anxiety and” post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), researchers found after surveying “482 undergraduate students about their childhood bullying experiences and current psychological functioning.” The [findings](#) were published online Aug. 16 in Social Psychology of Education.

### **Government and Psychiatry**

## **Advocates Fear Bill Aimed At Training Ordinary People To Recognize, Intercede In Cases Of Mental Illness Will Take Away Limited Resources From Mental Health Patients Needing Higher Levels Of Care.**

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/12, Leonard) reports that “advocates for people with serious mental illness are concerned that” legislation “aimed at training ordinary people to recognize and intercede when they see signs of mental health issues in others” will take “limited resources away from the 3.4 million people with untreated mental illness who need higher levels of care – and who also have the hardest time getting it.” Mental health advocates claim “the training program...is geared mostly toward people who want to assist less-severe mental health cases in which people are more likely to acknowledge they need help.”

### **Other News**

## **FDA Staff Raise Concerns About Methodology Of Varenicline Clinical Trial.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/12, Edney) reports that Food and Drug Administration staff “raised questions about a lack of consistency in how” Pfizer’s study of its smoking cessation drug Chantix (varenicline) “recorded neuropsychiatric events.” The concerns were raised in a report released by agency staff on Monday “ahead of a meeting of outside experts scheduled for Wednesday...to advise the FDA on possible changes to the boxed warnings on Chantix and Zyban [bupropion].” Although FDA staff said the trial was “designed in a well-intentioned attempt to capture somewhat ill-defined and complex neuropsychiatric phenomena,” they found “many problems in the implementation were apparent upon review of the collected data.”

[Reuters](#) (9/12, Grover, Clarke) reports that the FDA staff report suggests that the study’s “inconsistencies in data collection and characterization of the severity of some side-effects...could have led to biased results.”

Additional coverage is provided by [Fierce Pharma](#) (9/12, Staton) and [STAT](#) (9/12).

### **Monday's Lead Stories**

- [House Subcommittee Members Push For Insurers To Do More To Ensure Mental Health Parity.](#)
- [Depression Rates Higher In Individuals With Lower Limb Amputation When Compared To General Population, Researchers Say.](#)
- [Future Of ACOs In Question As Dartmouth Drops Out Of Federal Program.](#)
- [Data Indicate Veterinarians Have Third-Highest Risk Of Suicide When Compared To Other US Occupations.](#)
- [More Than 19,000 Reports Of Complications From AD/HD Medications Made To FDA Since 2013, Analysis Indicates.](#)

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