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Subject: APA Headlines: FDA Requires Boxed Warning, Medication Guides For Opioids, Benzodiazepines
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

September 1, 2016

Leading The News

FDA Requires Boxed Warning, Medication Guides For Opioids, Benzodiazepines.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/31, McGinley) reports that the Food and Drug Administration "will require tough new warnings on the labels" of opioid pain medications, cough syrups containing opioids, and benzodiazepines "in an effort to alert" patients and physicians "to the serious risks, including death, of combining the drugs." The FDA will require boxed warnings and medication guides "for nearly 400 products," listing "the dangers of using the medications in tandem, which include extreme sleepiness, respiratory depression, coma and death."

The [New York Times](#) (8/31, B4, Tavernise, Subscription Publication) reports, "Experts said the new labels were good for raising awareness about the danger of taking both drugs, but were skeptical that they would change practices."

[Psychiatric News](#) (8/31) reports, "Patients and health care professionals are encouraged to report any side effects involving opioids, benzodiazepines, or other medicines to the [FDA MedWatch program](#)."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/31, A3, Burton, Subscription Publication), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/31, Healy), [Reuters](#) (8/31, Clarke), [NPR](#) (8/31, Neel), [CNN](#) (8/31, Kounang), the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (8/31, Arditi), the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/31, Takala), [HealthDay](#) (8/31, Thompson), and [MedPage Today](#) (8/31, Basen).

Psychiatric News Alert



[FDA Issues Warning on Combined Use of Prescription Opioids, Benzodiazepines](#)

[Mental Health Improves With Age, Study Suggests](#)

APA to Develop a Mental Health Clinical Data Registry

The APA Board of Trustees in early 2016 approved the development of a mental health clinical data registry. APA's registry is in the initial stages of development. Once implemented, the registry will help psychiatrists meet new Medicare quality reporting requirements and maintain professional recertification. The registry will:

- help psychiatrists avoid payment penalties and instead achieve bonuses for meeting CMS quality reporting requirements
- reduce the burden of submitting Performance-in-Practice data and obtaining ABPN MOC Part IV credit to maintain board certification and hospital credentialing

APA is seeking member volunteers for a pilot project. [Volunteer for the pilot](#). [Learn more](#).



Government and Psychiatry

Data Indicate Most Insurers Will Offer Narrower Networks In 2017.

On the front of its Business & Tech section, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/31, B1, Mathews, Subscription Publication) reports that in an effort

to offset losses from their Affordable Care Act exchange businesses, health insurers are limiting the physician and hospital options they offer through their plans.

WPost Praises Clinton's Proposed Mental Health Strategy.

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/31) praises the "wide-ranging mental health strategy" unveiled by Hillary Clinton this week, calling it "one of the most consequential announcements of her campaign," and argues that, "unlike much of what she has proposed this election season, it has a real chance of becoming law." The Post says that while all sides are not "in perfect agreement" on the issue, and the question of "where the funding for it would come from" is a "major hurdle," Clinton's "focus on the issue is warranted and welcome," and if she is elected, "it might do some real-world good."

Psychiatry and Public Health

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Some Students Heading Off To College May Experience A Mental Health Crisis.

[TIME](#) (8/31, Rhodan) reports that "young adulthood is a critical period for mental health," and students heading off to college may end up facing "a pending mental health crisis." The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has found that 75% "of mental illnesses are onset by age 24 and 43.8 million adults, about one in five, experienced a mental illness in 2012." But, "the experiences students and parents have in dealing with mental illness can vary greatly from campus to campus, making it important for people to gain knowledge about what to expect, and what to look out for, imperative." On Aug. 31, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, in partnership with the Jed Foundation, "[released a guidebook](#) for students and parents that outlines warning signs for mental illness, resources available to students, and information parents need to know about getting access to their children's health information."

Schools Could Play Role In Identifying Students With Mental Health Problems, Experts Say. [NPR](#) (8/31, Anderson, Cardoza) reports in the first part of its NPR Ed series on mental health in schools that "up to one in five kids living in the US shows signs or symptoms of a mental health disorder in a given year." What's more, "nearly 80 percent who need mental health services won't get them." According to experts, "schools could play a role in identifying students with problems and helping them succeed." Unfortunately, "many schools are not prepared" to take on this role.

Psychiatric Medication Update

Aducanumab Shows Encouraging Results As Alzheimer's Treatment In Early Clinical Trial.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/31, story 8, 1:35, Llamas) reported on "a new experimental" medication "holding promise for" Alzheimer's disease patients.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/31, Bahrapour) reports that the medication, aducanumab "targets a protein called amyloid beta that builds up in the brain and creates plaques associated with the disease." In a [study](#) published in Nature, a Phase I clinical trial of 165 patients found that the patients "who received monthly infusions of the drug for a year showed a significant reduction in amyloid beta and slower cognitive decline than those receiving a placebo."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/31, Healy) reports that the clinical trial "did raise a safety concern," as "about 41% of those getting the highest dose and 37% of those getting the second-highest dose developed a complication of brain-fluid accumulation that hampered brain-imaging and was sometimes linked to headaches, visual disturbances and confusion." Biogen Inc. "is soon to launch a pair of much larger trials designed to test aducanumab's effectiveness as a treatment for Alzheimer's."

[Science Magazine](#) (8/31, Underwood) cautions that the trial was "an early test of the antibody's safety" and "is still too small to prove conclusive." Science Magazine also explains that "40 patients dropped out of the trial midway—half because of adverse side effects such as small hemorrhages and brain swelling."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Boston Globe](#) (8/31, Weisman), [NPR](#) (8/31, Hamilton), [TIME](#) (8/31, Park), and the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (8/31, Miller).

NIMH Announces Collaborative Effort To Develop New Way Of Assessing Mental Illness Treatments Using Stem Cells.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (8/31, Cohn) reports the National Institute of Mental Health announced that researchers from several academic institutions and pharmaceutical companies will collaborate to develop a new method of assessing treatments for severe mental illnesses using stem cells. The "effort will involve building a testing platform from induced pluripotent stem cells" with the aim of furthering the development of new drugs to treat such disorders.

Other News

Marijuana Use Becoming More Accepted Among US Adults, Survey Data Reveal.

The [AP](#) (8/31, Stobbe) reports, "Marijuana use is becoming more accepted among US adults as states loosen pot laws," researchers found after analyzing survey results from "more than a half million US adults."

The [CBS News](#) (8/31, Welch) website reports, "The trend comes as a growing number of states are changing laws to legalize medical, and to a lesser extent, recreational marijuana, which may be playing a role in" how the public perceives the drug. The [findings](#) were published online Aug. 31 in *The Lancet Psychiatry*. Also covering the story are [STAT](#) (8/31, Samuel), [TIME](#) (8/31, Sifferlin), [HealthDay](#) (8/31, Reinberg), and [LiveScience](#) (8/31, Kubota).

Wednesday's Lead Stories

- **Adolescents With BD May Be Especially At Risk Of Developing Substance Abuse Problems By Early Adulthood, Small Study Indicates.**
- **Enzyme Related To Impulse Control Appears To Be Shut Off At Onset Of Alcohol Dependency, Research In Rats Suggests.**
- **HHS To Distribute \$53M To 44 States To Address Opioid Abuse.**
- **Neuroimaging Data May Be Useful For Identifying Adolescents Who Are Most At Risk Of Alcohol Use, Small Scan Study Indicates.**
- **iPads As Effective As Sedative In Helping Calm Kids About To Undergo Surgery, Study Indicates.**

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