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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

December 14, 2016

Leading The News

Obama Signs 21st Century Cures Act.

President Obama's signing of the 21st Century Cures Act was noted on one major network newscast, and received very favorable – though sparse – print coverage highlighting the measure's potential to save lives and the bipartisan cooperation that brought it into being. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/13, story 8, 1:35, Alexander), for example, remarked on the "rare moment of unity" in "a city badly polarized by politics," in which Obama, in "what's likely the last bill-signing of this presidency," built "a legacy meant to last."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Eilperin, Johnson) reports the bill "had wide bipartisan support and has been held up as an example of what Congress can accomplish by working together." It contained "several provisions that the White House has championed, including \$1 billion for opioid abuse prevention and \$4.8 billion for biomedical research funding." It was "an emotional bill signing ceremony," says [USA Today](#) (12/13, Korte), for a bill that was "a personal project for" Vice President Biden, who was in attendance and delivered remarks, as "the section of the bill allocating \$1.8 billion in cancer research funding was named for his son, Beau, whose death from brain cancer in 2015 inspired what the White House called its 'Cancer Moonshot.'"

The [AP](#) (12/13, Freking) reports that "the signing ceremony represented a rare day in Obama's presidency, where lawmakers from both parties gathered to celebrate bipartisan joy over the passage of consequential legislation." Said Biden, "I hope this bodes well for what will come next year – that we're back working together." The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Eilperin, Johnson) also reports the "event was likely Obama's last public signing ceremony, and the fact that these traditional, symbolic observances have become so rare in Washington underscores the chasm that widened between the executive and legislative branch during the president's second term."

[Psychiatric News](#) (12/13) reports the new law will also "increase coordination among federal agencies responsible for treating mental illness by establishing medical leadership in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, improving how the federal government finances and manages evidence-based mental health services, promoting workforce development and integrated care, and strengthening enforcement of parity." APA President Maria A. Oquendo, MD, PhD, who attended the signing ceremony, said, "This marks the passage of the first mental health reform bill in more than 50 years and is long overdue." Dr. Oquendo added, "We should enjoy this moment, but that does not mean our work is over."

[The Hill](#) (12/13, Sullivan) said "the mental health portion, which draws on the years of work of...[Rep.] Murphy...has been billed by Republicans as their response to mass shootings, though that messaging has been emphasized less now that the provisions are part of a larger package." Democrats "have long argued that gun control is needed to address shootings."

White House Moving Quickly To Release Funds To Fight Opioid Abuse. [USA Today](#) (12/13, Shesgreen) reports, "With \$500 million" from the bill "in hand to fight the opioid epidemic, White House officials are moving quickly to get that money flowing to the hardest-hit states – and pushing local officials to spend the new dollars on treatment above other addiction-related initiatives." Michael Botticelli, the White House drug czar, "said states will have some flexibility to use the anti-addiction money for prevention and recovery support," though "expanding treatment, particularly in rural areas where health providers are scarce, will be an overriding focus as the Obama administration doles out the money." Said Botticelli, "We really want to make sure...states use these resources to really close that treatment gap. ... No matter where you live, you shouldn't have to travel long distances or wait weeks or months to get treatment."

Psychiatric News Alert



[APA Applauds Signing of Mental Health Reform Law](#)

[Study Highlights Long-Term Use of Psychiatric Medications](#)

2017 IPS: The Mental Health Services Conference – Now Accepting Abstracts

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Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Scan Study Identifies Biomarkers In Four Specific Subtypes Of Depression.

[Medical Daily](#) (12/13, Dovey) reports researchers have identified “biomarkers in four specific subtypes of depression by using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) brain scans of 1,000 patients with clinical depression, and comparing them to healthy control subjects.” The [findings](#) were published online Dec. 5 in Nature Medicine.

Government and Psychiatry

Department Of Veterans Affairs Issues Final Rule On Nurse Practitioners.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (12/13, Dickson, Subscription Publication) reports The Veteran Affairs Department on Tuesday issued a final rule to “allow advanced-practice registered nurses to practice to their full authority at VA facilities” though the rule does not include “certified registered nurse anesthetists.” The VA expects the rule to “make it easier for veterans to be seen by medical professionals.”

[MedPage Today](#) (12/13, Frieden) reports that under the rule, “nurse anesthetists will not be able to independently administer anesthesia” in VA facilities.

[HCP Live](#) (12/13, Scott) reports on the final rule as “a turf war between physician organizations and nursing groups” and says it “ended in a partial victory for both sides.”

Psychiatry and Public Health

Most American Seniors Would Take Test Predicting Alzheimer’s, Study Indicates.

[HealthDay](#) (12/13, Preidt) reports, “If a test could tell them they were going to develop Alzheimer’s disease, most American seniors would take it,” researchers found after asking “875 people aged 65 and older if they would take a free, accurate test to predict their future risk of the progressive brain disorder.” In fact, “three-quarters said they would take such a test,” investigators found. The [findings](#) were published online Dec. 12 in Alzheimer’s Research and Therapy.

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Other News

Global- Or Domain-Specific Decline In Cognition May Be Associated With, Can Be Predicted By Certain Elements Of Gait, Research Suggests.

[Healio](#) (12/13, Tedesco) reports, “Global- or domain-specific decline in cognition was associated with and can be predicted by spatial, temporal and spatiotemporal elements of gait,” researchers found after studying and then following up on “3,426 cognitively normal patients aged 70 years to 89 years from the Mayo Clinic Study of Aging.” The [findings](#) were published online Nov. 19 in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.’

Study Finds Large Regional Variations In Causes Of Death.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13, Adamy, Subscription Publication) reports cause of death varies greatly by region in the US, according to a new [study](#) conducted by the University of Washington that was published in JAMA. Researchers reviewed death records from the National Center for Health Statistics from across the US, and found regional variations.

On its website, [NBC News](#) (12/13) reports Dr. Christopher Murray of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington said, “We found huge variation in all the leading causes of death.” Murray said, “The highest levels, for example, for violent death, from suicide and homicide, are in the west of the US. The highest death rates from drug use disorders are in West Virginia and eastern Kentucky and New Mexico.”

On its website, [CNN](#) (12/13, Howard) reports deaths caused by neurological disorders increased in eastern Texas, Oklahoma, and

Alabama. The article also mentions that according to the National Cancer Institute, death rates from cancer between 2009 and 2013 “were highest in Union County, Florida; Wade Hampton Census Area, Alaska; Woodson County, Kansas; Powell County, Kentucky; and other nearby counties.”

[HealthDay](#) (12/13, Thompson) reports the study also found that people “along the southern stretch of the Mississippi River are more likely to die from heart problems than anywhere else” in the US and “people living in parts of New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, and North and South Dakota tend to drink more alcohol, and are more likely to die from cirrhosis or other chronic liver diseases.”

Zika Virus May Persist In The Infant Brain After Birth, CDC Study Suggests.

The [New York Times](#) (12/13, McNeil, Belluck, Subscription Publication) reports infants “born to Zika-infected mothers are highly likely to have brain damage, even in the absence of obvious abnormalities like small heads, and the virus may go on replicating in their brains well after birth, according to” newly published research.

[Reuters](#) (12/13, Steenhuysen) reports a new study reveals that the Zika virus may replicate in “fetal brains for up to seven months after the mother became infected with the virus.” Researchers also showed that the “virus can persist even after birth.” Julu Bhatnagar, lead of the molecular pathology team at CDC’s Infectious Diseases Pathology Branch and the study’s lead author, said in a statement, “Our findings show that Zika virus can continue to replicate in infants’ brains even after birth, and that the virus can persist in placentas for months – much longer than we expected.”

[HealthDay](#) (12/13, Preidt) reports Bhatnagar added, “We don’t know how long the virus can persist, but its persistence could have implications for babies born with microcephaly and for apparently healthy infants whose mothers had Zika during their pregnancies.” He said, “More studies are needed to fully understand how the virus can affect babies.” For the study, CDC researchers “tested tissues from 52 patients with suspected Zika infection; 44 pregnant women and eight infants who had microcephaly and later died.” The [findings](#) were published in the *Emerging Infectious Diseases* journal.

Millions Of Americans Get Water From Small Operators That Are Not Subject To The Same Regulations Regarding Lead Levels As Larger Operators.

In an over 4,000 word article, [USA Today](#) (12/13, Ungar, Nichols) reports that 4 million Americans get water from small operators that are not subject to the same federal regulations regarding lead levels as larger operators, according to an investigation conducted by the USA Today Network. The article shares examples of communities that have been impacted by the different standards for small operators.

Tuesday’s Lead Stories

- [Regular Use Of Statins May Be Associated With Reduced Risk For Alzheimer’s, Study Suggests.](#)
- [Men Who Played High School Football During 1950’s And 1960’s Are Not More Likely To Suffer From Dementia Or Memory Problems Than Those Who Played Other Sports, Small Study Suggests.](#)
- [Analysis: 52 Million Non-Elderly Adults Could Be Uninsurable If ACA Were Repealed.](#)
- [Survey Of US Teens Shows Lowest Ever Rates Of Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug Use.](#)
- [Off-Label Prescribing Of Antipsychotics For Very Young Children Appears To Be Common, Study Reveals.](#)
- [One In Six US Adults Reported Taking A Psychiatric Medication, Research Reveals.](#)

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