



Telehealth UPDATES 10.13.2023

DEA Telehealth

DEA and SAMHSA jointly issued a second temporary rule that extends the full set of COVID-19 telemedicine flexibilities for prescription of controlled medications through December 31, 2024.

What is it?

DEA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) continue to consider revisions to the proposed rules on the prescribing of controlled medications and buprenorphine (Impact summary), and in light of recent Telemedicine Listening Sessions hosted by the DEA in September, the agencies are further extending the exceptions for the full set of telemedicine flexibilities regarding prescription of controlled medications, as well as the exception to existing DEA regulations for new practitioner-patient relationships, through December 31, 2024.

Why it is important:

The agencies assert that the purpose of the extension is to ensure a smooth transition for patients and practitioners that have come to rely on the availability of telemedicine for controlled medication prescriptions, as well as allowing adequate time for providers to come into compliance with any new standards or safeguards.

What happens after December 2024?

The DEA states it is working to promulgate new standards or safeguards for telemedicine by the fall of 2024.

What action do I need to take?

None currently. The Center for Telehealth at Cincinnati Children's will continue to monitor for updates to legislation and provide input on next steps as we close in on December 2024.