
From: Credible Behavioral Health, Inc. <jaclyn.o'donnell@credibleinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 1:31 PM
To: Credible Education
Subject: Credible Behavioral Health Industry News & Updates - April 2017

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Behavioral Health Software



Industry News & Updates - April 2017

DEAR PARTNER,

Based on Partner surveys and user group feedback, Credible is now providing monthly updates on billing and payer, clinical, and industry news to help keep our Partner Community up-to-date. Below please find our monthly update focused on clinical and industry oriented news. You can find all updates for billing and payer, clinical, and industry news in Credible Help under General Information > Release Notes and Communications.

Federal Policy Updates

[VA Secretary Announces Intention to Expand Mental Health Care to Former Servicemembers with Other-Than-Honorable Discharges and in Crisis](#)



On March 08, 2017, VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin announced his intention to expand provisions for urgent mental health care needs to former service members with other-than-honorable (OTH) administrative discharges. This move marks the first time a VA Secretary has implemented an initiative specifically focused on expanding access to assist former OTH

Servicemembers who are in mental health distress and may be at risk for suicide or other adverse behaviors. The Servicemembers will be able to access care from a VA emergency department, Vet Center, or contact the Veterans Crisis Line. This change will impact nearly 500,000 former Servicemembers with OTH discharge. Secretary Shulkin stated that the plan should be finalized in early summer.

[[VA Announcement](#) - Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255 and Press 1) - [Veterans Crisis Line Info](#)]

Avenevoli Named National Institute of Mental Health Deputy Director



On March 17, 2017, Dr. Shelli Avenevoli has been named deputy director of NIMH. She steps into the post having served as acting deputy during NIMH's search for a new permanent director. Avenevoli brings to the role a background and research interest in developmental science and epidemiology and a record of leadership within the NIMH organization and in numerous cross-institute and interagency scientific collaborations.

[[NIMH Announcement](#)]

SAMHSA: New Guidelines for Successful Transition from Jail and Prison

SAMHSA has released a new implementation guide, *Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders from Jail and Prison*. This resource provides behavioral health, correctional, and community stakeholders with 10 guidelines to effectively transition people with mental or substance use disorders from institutional correctional settings into the community, as well as examples of local implementation of successful strategies for managing this transition. On April 20, 2017, at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, SAMHSA hosted a webinar on the key elements of the guide. The webinar also provided examples of successful implementation of the guidelines in local jails.



[SAMHSA Summary [Website Link](#) - [PDF Guide Download](#)]

Federal Meeting Announcement

Drug Development for Autism: On May 4, 2017, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is holding a public meeting and an opportunity for public comment on Patient-Focused Drug Development for autism. The public meeting is intended to allow the FDA to obtain client perspectives on the impact of autism on daily life, as well as client views on treatment approaches for autism. Electronic comments must be submitted on or before July 5, 2017 (www.regulations.gov).

[[FDA Announcement](#)]

SAMHSA GRANT: Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care

On March 17, 2017, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the availability of funding for states to expand their practice of integrating primary and behavioral health care. Eligibility for this application is limited to states or appropriate state agencies. States can enter partnerships with community behavioral health organizations or federally qualified health centers for this application. Applications are due Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

Mental Health Industry News

[AskHopkinsPsychiatry.org](#)



The renowned Johns Hopkins Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, known as experts in the research of illnesses that afflict mental health and behavior, have launched a Q/A site. Visitors to [AskHopkinsPsychiatry.org](#) can ask any general question about mood disorders including diagnosis, treatments, research, what to expect, how to care for a loved one, and how to talk about symptoms. Each week the staff of the Mood Disorder Center will pick one question that they will answer with an engaging video.

[New Evidence-Based Diagnostic System: Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology](#)

A consortium of 50 psychologists and psychiatrists from around the world has outlined a new diagnostic model for mental illness, in what researchers hope will be a paradigm shift in how these illnesses are classified and diagnosed. The model the consortium proposes, called the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP), addresses these concerns, which are shared by many psychologists and psychiatrists. The advantages of such classification include more personalized and specific treatment, as well as allowing researchers and clinicians to recognize and acknowledge the existence of significant problems that don't currently meet full DSM diagnostic thresholds. Second, the HiTOP system simplifies the classification. Different DSM-5 diagnoses co-occur with surprisingly frequency, with most clients labelled with more than one disorder at the same time.



[[Consortium Announcement](#) & Original Study - PDF file: [Journal of Abnormal Psychology](#)]

[New Ohio Rules Limit Some Opioid Prescriptions to 7-Day Supplies](#)

Ohio doctors, dentists and other health professionals will be able to prescribe only up to seven days of painkillers for adults and five days for kids and teens under new rules announced on March 30, 2017. The limits apply to acute pain patients, with exceptions for cancer, hospice, or medication-assisted addiction patients. Prescribers will also have to provide the diagnosis or condition requiring the opioids when reporting through the Ohio controlled substances database, the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS).

[Full Article: [Cleveland.com](#) - Ohio Senate [Bill 319](#)]

Treatment Interventions

[Violence and LGBTQ+ Communities](#)

Following the mass murder in Orlando and the passage of House Bill 2 in North Carolina, RTI International, an independent nonprofit research institute, analyzed 20 years' worth of published studies on violence and the LGBTQ+ community. Key findings include:

- Disparities in victimization have remained the same or increased since the 1990s.
- LGBTQ+ youths reported being afraid or feeling unsafe at school.

- School-based victimization of LGBTQ+ youth was associated with decreased school attendance, poorer school performance, and steeply increased the risk of suicide attempts.
- LGBTQ+ people are often victimized by close family members, particularly their parents and, for bisexual women, their male partners.

[Full Article: [RTI International](#), Original Study: [RTI.org](#)]

New Method Predicts Lithium Response with 92 Percent Accuracy

Lithium (Li), a first-line treatment for bipolar disorder, has historically been effective for only one-third of clients diagnosed with the illness. Researchers from the Salk Institute have found a way to predict, with 92 percent accuracy, which clients with bipolar will respond to Li. Once commercialized, diagnostic labs will eliminate the considerable amount of time it takes to determine whether Li will be an effective treatment. The researchers have utilized five cells from one client to define whether they will be responsive or nonresponsive to Li treatment.

[Full Article: [ScienceDaily.com](#), Original Study: [Molecular Psychiatry](#) (Fee to read)]

Blood Test Unlocks New Frontier in Treating Depression



On March 29, 2017, the UT Southwestern Medical Center announced findings from a research study that could change the way medication is prescribed for treating depression. With a simple finger-prick blood test, doctors can measure a client's C-reactive protein (CRP) levels, determining which medication is more likely to assist a client overcome depression. The study that was published in *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, measured remission rates of more than 100 depressed clients prescribed either escitalopram alone or escitalopram plus bupropion. Researchers found a strong correlation between CRP levels and which drug regimen improved their symptoms:

- For clients whose CRP levels were less than 1 milligram per liter, escitalopram alone was more effective: 57 percent remission rate compared to less than 30 percent on the other drug.
- For clients with higher CRP levels, escitalopram plus bupropion was more likely to work: 51 percent remission rate compared to 33 percent on escitalopram alone.

[Full Article: [UT Southwestern Medical Center](#),
Original Study: [Psychoneuroendocrinology](#) (Fee to read)]

Thank you for your continued Partnership,

Jaclyn O'Donnell

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Mission: Improve the quality of care and lives in Behavioral Health
for clients, families, providers and management.

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