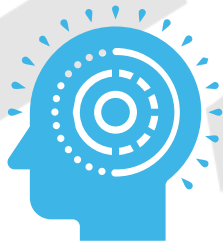




Caring through COVID-19

Recent Federal Behavioral Health Policy

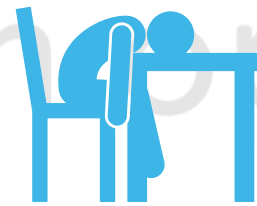
Brad Lerner
Health Policy Director
Anthem, Inc.



Anxiety



Depression

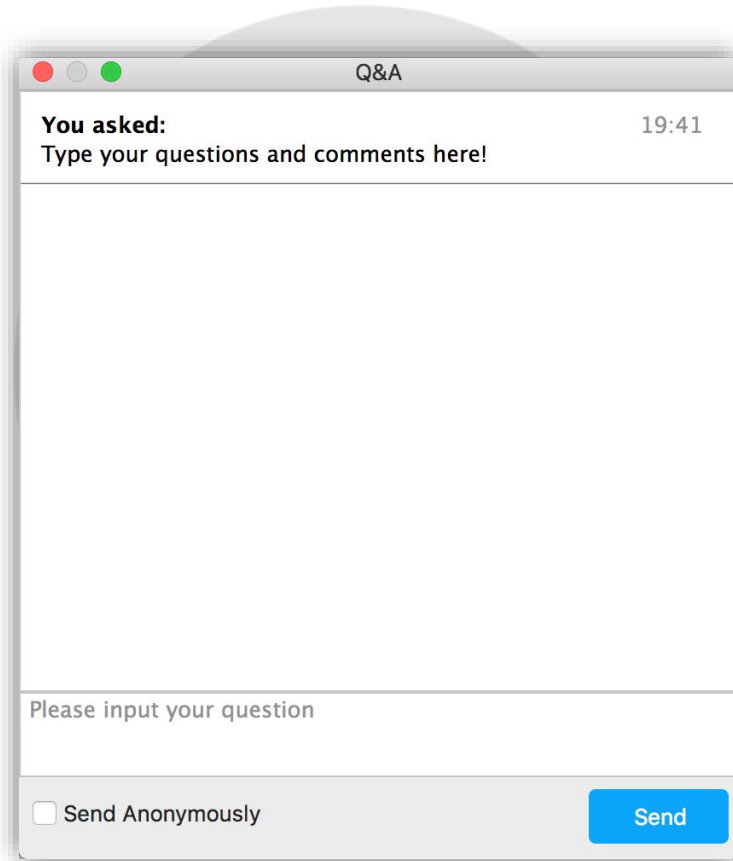


Job loss



**Working
remotely**

Housekeeping Items



A screenshot of a web browser window titled "Q&A". The window has a header bar with "You asked:" on the left and "19:41" on the right. Below the header is a large text area with the prompt "Type your questions and comments here!". At the bottom of the window, there is a smaller text input field with the placeholder "Please input your question". Below this field is a checkbox labeled "Send Anonymously" and a blue "Send" button. A blue arrow points from the list of housekeeping items to the right side of the Q&A window.

1. Today's webinar is 1 hour including Q&A.
2. All participants will be muted during the webinar.
3. Please use the Q&A function. We will monitor questions throughout and answer as many as possible at the end.
4. This webinar is being recorded and will be posted within 24 hours at www.beaconhealthoptions.com/coronavirus/ so you have continued access to the information and resources.

PLEASE NOTE: This presentation provides some general information that is subject to change and updates. It should not be construed as including all information pertinent to your particular situation or providing legal advice. We encourage you to consult with your legal counsel regarding the topics raised in this presentation.

Today's speaker



Brad Lerner
Health Policy Director
Anthem, Inc.

beacon
health options

COVID-19 Policy Priorities



Telehealth permitted in homes



Site restrictions removed



“Established relationship” waived



State licensure flexibility



Waive Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) Medicaid Exclusion



Mental Health Parity refinement



Peers



Fully Align 42 CFR Part 2



Eliminate the 190-Day Medicare Limit on Inpatient Psychiatric Care



Suspend Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) practitioner waiver



Audio-only services



1115 Waivers

Behavioral Health System Priorities

Promoting Behavioral
Health Integration
and Behavioral
Health Value Based
Payment Models

Making Effective Use
of Technology

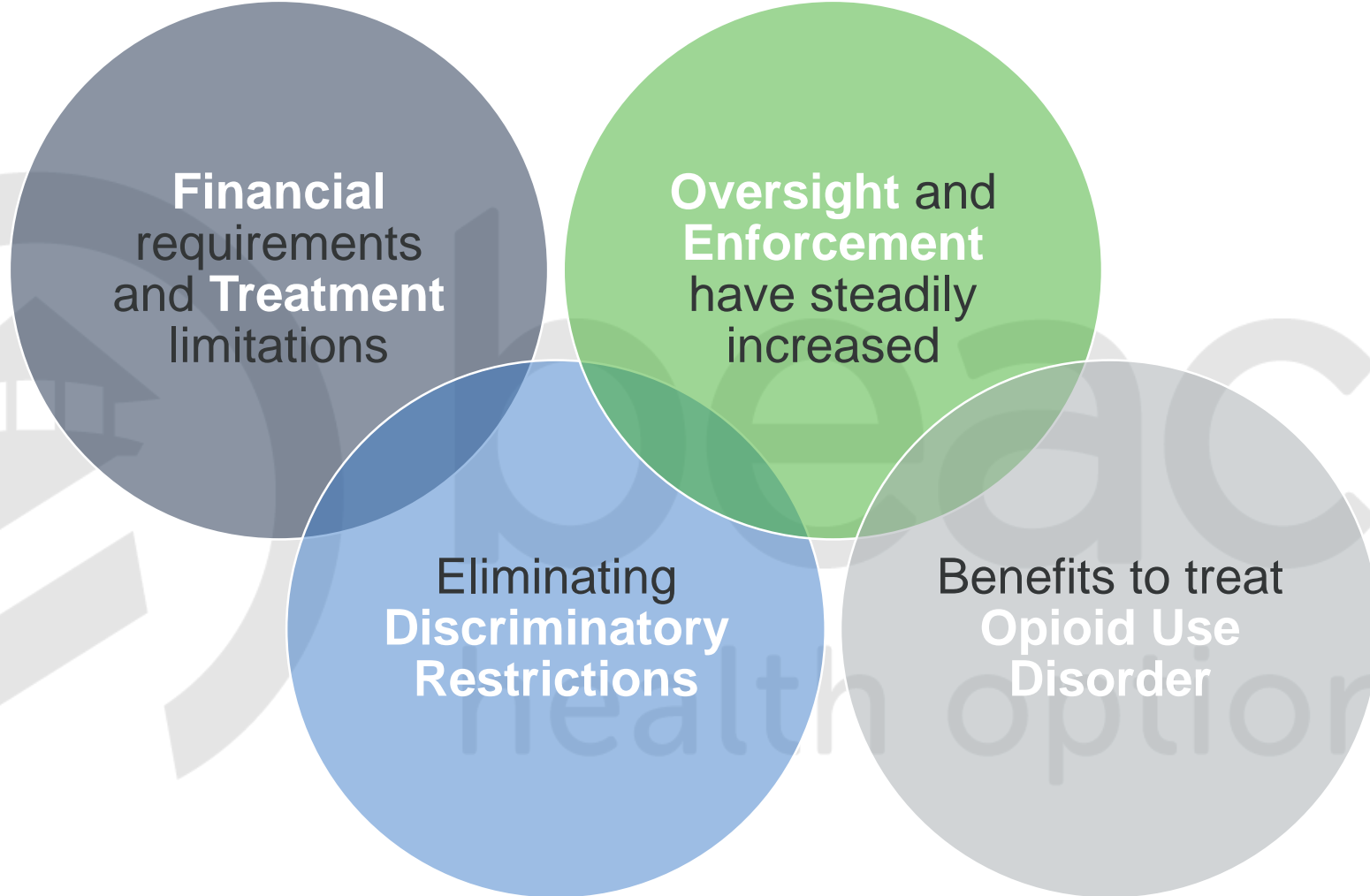
Increasing Workforce
and Access

Improving Quality

Reducing Stigma
Through Improved
Outreach and
Education

Addressing Health
Disparities and
Promoting Health
Equity

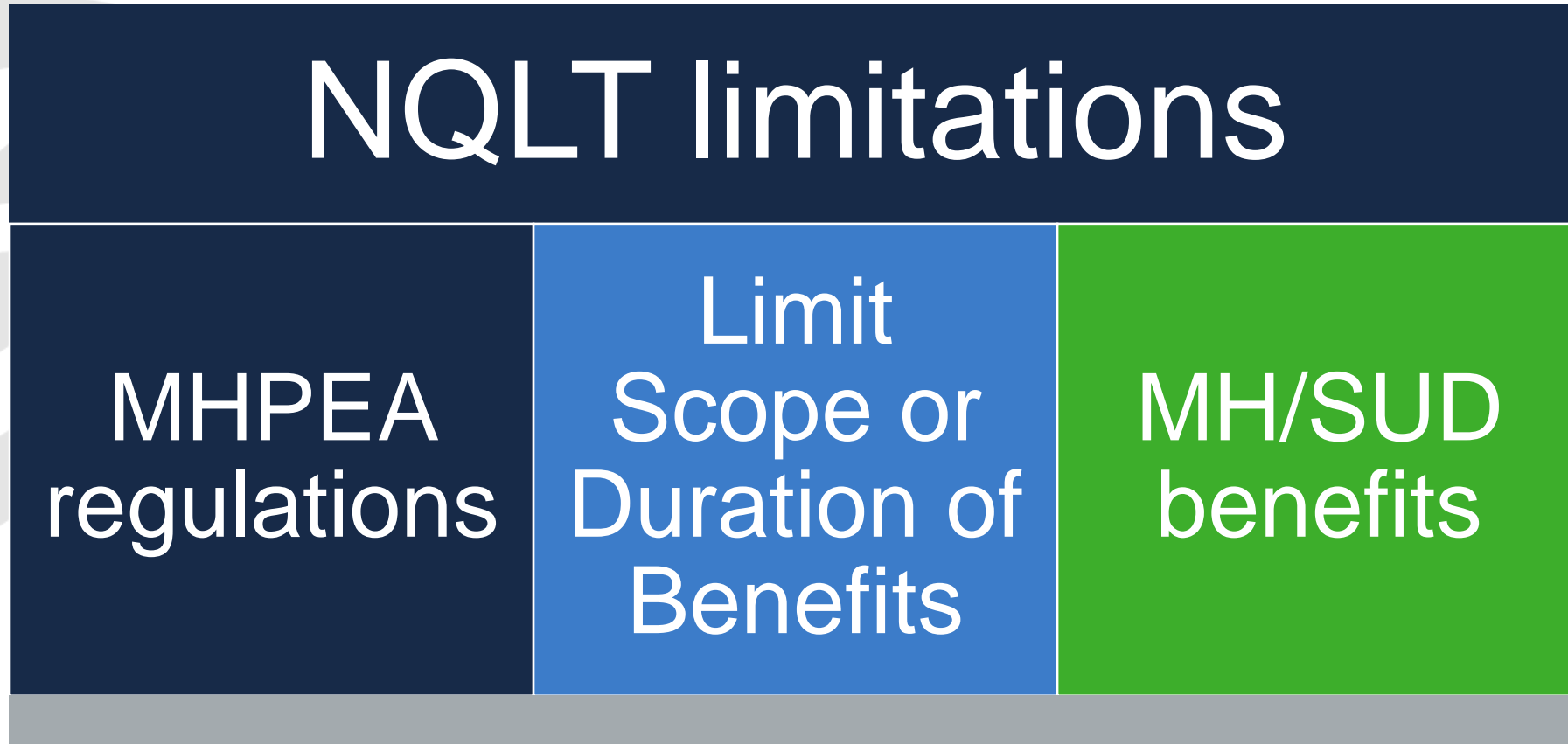
Mental Health Parity Law Overview



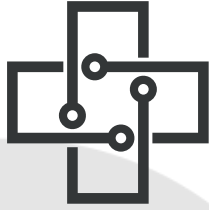
Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (“MHPAEA”) enacted October 3, 2008

Key Concepts

- The Regulations established that treatment limitations include both quantitative (QTL) and nonquantitative (NQTL) treatment limitations.



HHS Expands Access to MAT



Eliminating Physician Need for DEA Waiver to Prescribe Buprenorphine



On Jan. 12, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued Practice Guidelines for the administration of buprenorphine for the treatment of OUD.

The new guidelines eliminate the requirement that physicians with a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration number apply for a separate waiver to prescribe buprenorphine for OUD treatment.

Physicians utilizing this exemption will place an "X" on the prescription and clearly identify that the prescription is being written for OUD.

HHS Expands Access to MAT



The exemption only applies when treating patients who are located in the states where the provider is authorized to practice.



Physicians utilizing this exemption will be limited to treating no more than 30 patients with buprenorphine for OUD at any one time (note: the 30 patient cap does not apply to hospital-based physicians, such as Emergency Department physicians).



The exemption only applies to drugs covered under the X-waiver of the Controlled Substances Act, such as buprenorphine, and does not apply to the prescription, dispensation or use of methadone for the treatment of OUD.

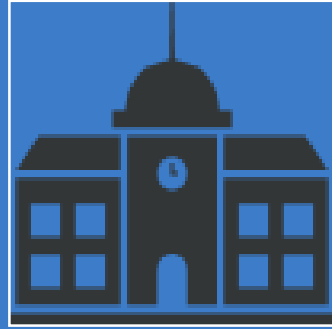


The new guidelines aim to expand access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT). An interagency working group will be established to monitor the implementation and results of these practice guidelines, as well as the impact on diversion.

Telehealth Flexibilities Post-Pandemic



**Telehealth
permitted in
homes**



**Site
restrictions
removed**



**“Established
relationship”
waived**



**State
licensure
flexibility.**

Suicide Prevention: 9-8-8 Lifeline

- ❑ Payers support swift implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- ❑ Seeks that adequate resources be provided so that it can operate effectively and handle call volume
- ❑ Congress considering H.R. 4564, the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act. This legislation would require increased coordination, data sharing, and provide more funding to support community-based crisis service delivery.



Suicide Prevention-Veterans



Biden Platform Suicide Prevention for Veterans

Work aggressively to facilitate immediate access to mental health services for veterans in crisis

Elimination of wait times for veterans who reach out with suicidal ideation so that they are immediately taken into treatment.

Expand capacity at Vet Centers to ensure veterans in communities can access readjustment counseling services and resources, including financial and long-term planning

Implement programs to disseminate high-quality treatments for PTSD.

CARES Act & HIPAA

42 CFR Part 2 Reform

- The Administration has until March 27, 2021 to issue the 42 CFR Part 2 (Part 2) rule pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which passed in March 2020.
- Under the CARES Act, requirements from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) will be applied to Part 2. The CARES Act permits a patient to provide one written consent to disclose their Part 2 information for all future treatment, payment, or health care operations (TPO), unless the patient revokes consent.



Workforce Shortage

BIDEN PLATFORM

Increase funding for the National Health Service Corps

Create partnerships between health centers, high schools, and community colleges in order to encourage youth to pursue health care jobs

Double the number of psychologists, guidance counselors, and other mental health professionals in schools

Lifting of IMD Exclusion



- Payers support ending the IMD exclusion, which prohibits Medicaid reimbursement for adults under the age of 65 in residential behavioral health facilities with more than 16 beds.
- Could increase access and improve appropriate care through expanded use of waivers under section 1115 to enable states to more broadly cover IMD services.
- Waiving the IMD exclusion to Medicaid funding for inpatient behavioral health treatment during the pandemic would free up beds in local hospitals for COVID-19 patients



Questions & Discussion

Resources

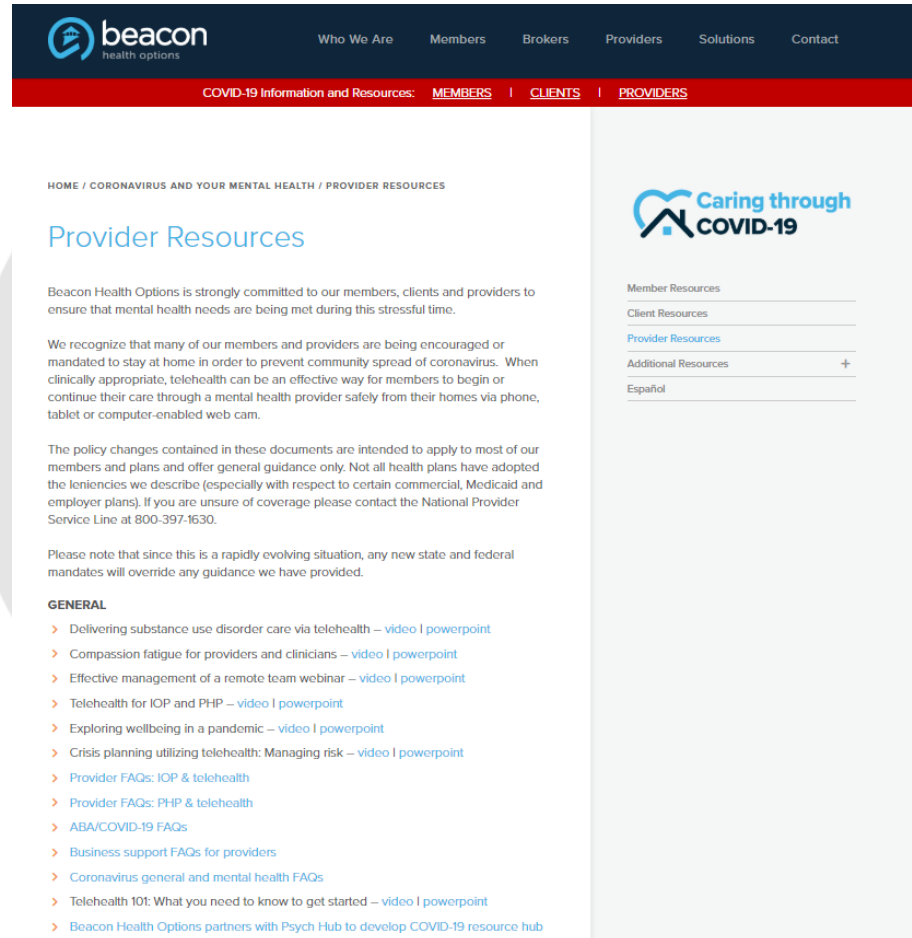
National Council for Behavioral Health

<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/>

Association for Mental Health & Wellness

<http://mhaw.org/>

Refer to Beacon's COVID-19 webpage for the most up-to-date information



The screenshot shows the Beacon Health Options website. The top navigation bar includes links for Who We Are, Members, Brokers, Providers, Solutions, and Contact. A red banner below the navigation bar highlights "COVID-19 Information and Resources" with links for MEMBERS, CLIENTS, and PROVIDERS. The main content area is titled "Provider Resources" and includes a paragraph about Beacon's commitment to members, clients, and providers. It also features a section for "GENERAL" resources, including links to various videos, powerpoints, and FAQs related to COVID-19 and telehealth. A sidebar on the right contains a "Caring through COVID-19" logo and a list of resources: Member Resources, Client Resources, Provider Resources (highlighted), Additional Resources, and Español.

HOME / CORONAVIRUS AND YOUR MENTAL HEALTH / PROVIDER RESOURCES

Provider Resources

Beacon Health Options is strongly committed to our members, clients and providers to ensure that mental health needs are being met during this stressful time.

We recognize that many of our members and providers are being encouraged or mandated to stay at home in order to prevent community spread of coronavirus. When clinically appropriate, telehealth can be an effective way for members to begin or continue their care through a mental health provider safely from their homes via phone, tablet or computer-enabled web cam.

The policy changes contained in these documents are intended to apply to most of our members and plans and offer general guidance only. Not all health plans have adopted the leniencies we describe (especially with respect to certain commercial, Medicaid and employer plans). If you are unsure of coverage please contact the National Provider Service Line at 800-397-1630.

Please note that since this is a rapidly evolving situation, any new state and federal mandates will override any guidance we have provided.

GENERAL

- > Delivering substance use disorder care via telehealth – [video](#) | [powerpoint](#)
- > Compassion fatigue for providers and clinicians – [video](#) | [powerpoint](#)
- > Effective management of a remote team webinar – [video](#) | [powerpoint](#)
- > Telehealth for IOP and PHP – [video](#) | [powerpoint](#)
- > Exploring wellbeing in a pandemic – [video](#) | [powerpoint](#)
- > Crisis planning utilizing telehealth: Managing risk – [video](#) | [powerpoint](#)
- > [Provider FAQs: IOP & telehealth](#)
- > [Provider FAQs: PHP & telehealth](#)
- > [ABA/COVID-19 FAQs](#)
- > [Business support FAQs for providers](#)
- > [Coronavirus general and mental health FAQs](#)
- > Telehealth 101: What you need to know to get started – [video](#) | [powerpoint](#)
- > [Beacon Health Options partners with Psych Hub to develop COVID-19 resource hub](#)

Caring through COVID-19

- Member Resources
- Client Resources
- [Provider Resources](#)
- Additional Resources +
- Español

[Beacon COVID-19 provider resources & webinars LINK](#)

Thank You



Thank you.

beacon
health options