

HHS and DEA Issue Second Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Controlled Medications

- Due to the COVID-19 PHE, flexibilities were implemented to prevent lapses in patient care by allowing the prescribing of schedule II-V controlled medications via audio-video telemedicine encounters – including schedule III-V narcotic controlled medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for maintenance and withdrawal management of opioid use disorder – even when the prescribing practitioner had not conducted an in-person medical evaluation of the patient.
- In May 2023, HHS and DEA issued a temporary rule (First Temporary Rule) that extended these flexibilities until Nov. 11, 2023, for practitioner-patient relationships formed after the expiration of the COVID-19 PHE.
- On Oct. 6, 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued the Second Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications (Second Temporary Rule).
- This Second Temporary Rule further extends the flexibilities for new practitioner-patient relationships through Dec. 31, 2024.
- This Second Temporary Rule is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Oct. 10, 2023.

More on This Topic:

- [First Temporary Rule](#)
- [Second Temporary Rule](#)

For questions, please reach out to [Vicky Jucelin](#).

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