



## NewsBREAK | May 9

### **SAMHSA and DEA Issue Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Controlled Medications**

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) are issuing this temporary rule to extend certain exceptions granted to existing DEA regulations in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (COVID-19 PHE).
- Due to the COVID-19 PHE, certain flexibilities were implemented to prevent lapses in care. These flexibilities allowed 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 via audio-only telemedicine encounters, even when the prescribing practitioner had not conducted an in-person medical evaluation of the patient.
- The prescriptions must otherwise comply with the requirements outlined in DEA guidance documents, DEA regulations, and applicable Federal and State law.
- This full set of telemedicine flexibilities will remain in place through November 11, 2023, and, for any practitioner-patient telemedicine relationships established on or before November 11, 2023, this full set of telemedicine flexibilities will continue to be permitted through November 11, 2024.
- This Temporary Rule is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on May 10, 2023 and will be effective May 11, 2023 through November 11, 2024.

See the Temporary Rule for additional details.

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#### **More on This Topic**

- [Temporary Rule](#)

For questions, please reach out to [Tyler Thorne](#).

