



APA Administration Update to Area Councils
Prepared by the Office of the CEO and Medical Director (as of January 30, 2020)



2020 APA Annual Meeting: The theme for this year’s Annual Meeting, “Advancing Quality: Challenges and Opportunities,” was chosen by APA President Dr. Bruce Schwartz because of the importance and timeliness of quality in medical care. The 2020 Annual Meeting will help members navigate issues like outcome measurement, quality improvement, infrastructure, reporting, service delivery, and systems change. Sessions on quality will range from the most practical clinical topics, to the latest research, to the policy and advocacy issues that impact everyday practice.

The Annual Meeting will be held in Philadelphia from April 25-29, 2020. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about APA’s premier psychiatry event of the year and contact Dr. Tristan Gorrindo (tgorrindo@psych.org) if you have any questions. [Early Bird Registration ends on Monday, February 24, 2020](#). We hope to see you there!

American Psychiatric Association Foundation Benefit: Join the APA Foundation on Saturday, April 25th from 7-10 pm at Philadelphia’s spectacular Union League Club to raise funds and awareness of the Foundation’s vision: A Mentally Healthy Nation for All. [Purchase your ticket online](#) and contact apafoundation@psych.org with questions.

Schizophrenia Practice Guideline: The Board of Trustees approved the Schizophrenia Practice Guideline at their December 2019 meeting. A patient’s guide and education slides for training programs will be developed in 2020 as derivatives of this guideline. Email Jennifer Medicus (jmedicus@psych.org) with questions.

APA Updates Resources for Electronic Prescribing: In light of rapidly changing state laws, as well as changes to national pharmacy chain policies, APA has updated its [electronic prescribing website](#). The updated website offers new resources on selecting an electronic prescribing solution, determining whether your state is affected by these changes, and selecting an electronic prescribing tool. This page can be used in conjunction with APA's [Electronic Health Record \(HER\) FAQs](#) for those providers who wish to adopt a full HER suite solution into their practice. Please contact Nathan Tatro (ntatro@psych.org) if you have questions.

APA Supports Coverage and Appropriate Payment for Esketamine: In response to a request from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) APA has offered feedback on an interim proposal on coverage and payment for Esketamine. APA supports coverage for the medication, which was recently approved by the FDA. APA's comments encouraged CMS to revise their proposed payment structure to better reflect how the medication will be administered and patients monitored in an outpatient setting. The feedback advocates for unbundling of the services and for an increase in reimbursement, in an effort to ensure that the work and time involved are appropriately valued. For additional information, please contact Kristin Kroeger (kkroeger@psych.org) or Becky Yowell (byowell@psych.org).

APA Supports NIMH Strategic Plan for Research: APA [submitted comments](#) on the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Draft Strategic Plan for Research, expressing support for its continued emphasis on the need to close the gap between research and clinical practice with a strong focus on understanding development and disease trajectories to identify forms of early intervention. APA recommended they elaborate on: 1) their plan on the role of NIMH to promote information sharing, such as between registries and EHRs, their workforce development and young investigators efforts, and 3) training to develop a workforce able to work with big and complex data sets using novel computational approaches. If you have questions, please contact Michelle Dirst (mdirst@psych.org).