



Evolution of Telehealth in Prescribing of Controlled Substances

As the DEA prepares to unveil new regulations for the telemedicine prescribing of controlled substances, many are eager to see how these changes may reshape the policy landscape for telemedicine delivery of care. With this in mind, the following provides a timeline of how we arrived at this juncture and what may lie ahead on the policy horizon.

JULY 16, 2024



Ryan Haight Act

Regulates the dispensing of controlled substances via the internet, requiring a valid prescription issued after at least one in-person evaluation in most cases.



The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act

Requires promulgation of rules pertaining to a telemedicine special registration within 2 years.



COVID-19 Temporary Policy Changes

Allows for telemedicine prescribing without in-person visit, (initially set to expire at the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE)).



Regulations Proposed

Regulations on how to permanently regulate controlled substances are proposed. The DEA receives massive feedback and decides to delay a final rule.



Temporary Rule is Issued

A temporary rule is issued extending COVID PHE flexibilities **until Nov. 11, 2023.**



Additional Temporary Rule Issued

Another temporary rule is issued that extends the COVID PHE flexibilities **until Dec. 31, 2024.**



DEA Submits Final Proposed Rule to OMB

It is reported that the DEA has submitted their final proposed rule to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) with the final rule anticipated to be released in the Fall.



Current Expiration Date of Flexibilities

As of now, the currently set expiration date for the COVID-19 prescribing flexibilities **remains Dec. 31, 2024.**

