



**Association for Behavioral  
Health and Wellness**

*Advancing benefits and services  
in mental health, substance use  
and behavior change.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ABHW Seeks Additional Changes to Substance Use Disorder Confidentiality Rule**

**Washington, DC (February 17, 2017)** – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), an association of the nation's leading behavioral health and wellness companies serving over 170 million people, today submitted comments to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in response to the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) regarding 42 CFR Part 2 (SAMHSA-4162-20; RIN 0930-AA21).

ABHW urged SAMHSA to consider the following recommendations:

- Permit disclosure of information for the purpose of care coordination so that consumers can be easily connected to services.
- Create a broader definition of what is considered an emergency under Part 2 so that foreseeable emergencies can be prevented.
- Align Part 2 with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for the purposes of treatment, payment, and operations to promote safe, effective, coordinated care for persons with opioid addiction and other substance use disorders.

Pamela Greenberg, President and CEO, ABHW, stated, “The SNPRM is a step in the right direction to lifting some of the constraints to integrated care imposed by the Part 2 final rule. However, additional barriers need to be eliminated if we are going to provide the same integrated care for individuals with a substance use disorder as we do for individuals with a mental or physical illness.”

ABHW’s comment letter may be accessed [here](#).

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*ABHW is an association of the nation’s leading behavioral health and wellness companies. These companies provide an array of services related to mental health, substance use disorders, employee assistance, disease management, and other health and wellness programs to over 170 million people in both the public and private sectors. ABHW and its member companies use their behavioral health expertise to improve health care outcomes for individuals and families across the health care spectrum. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, Anthem, Beacon Health Options, Centene Corporation, Cigna, Humana Behavioral Health, New Directions Behavioral Health, Optum, and PerformCare.*