



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.

FEBRUARY 25, 2025



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.



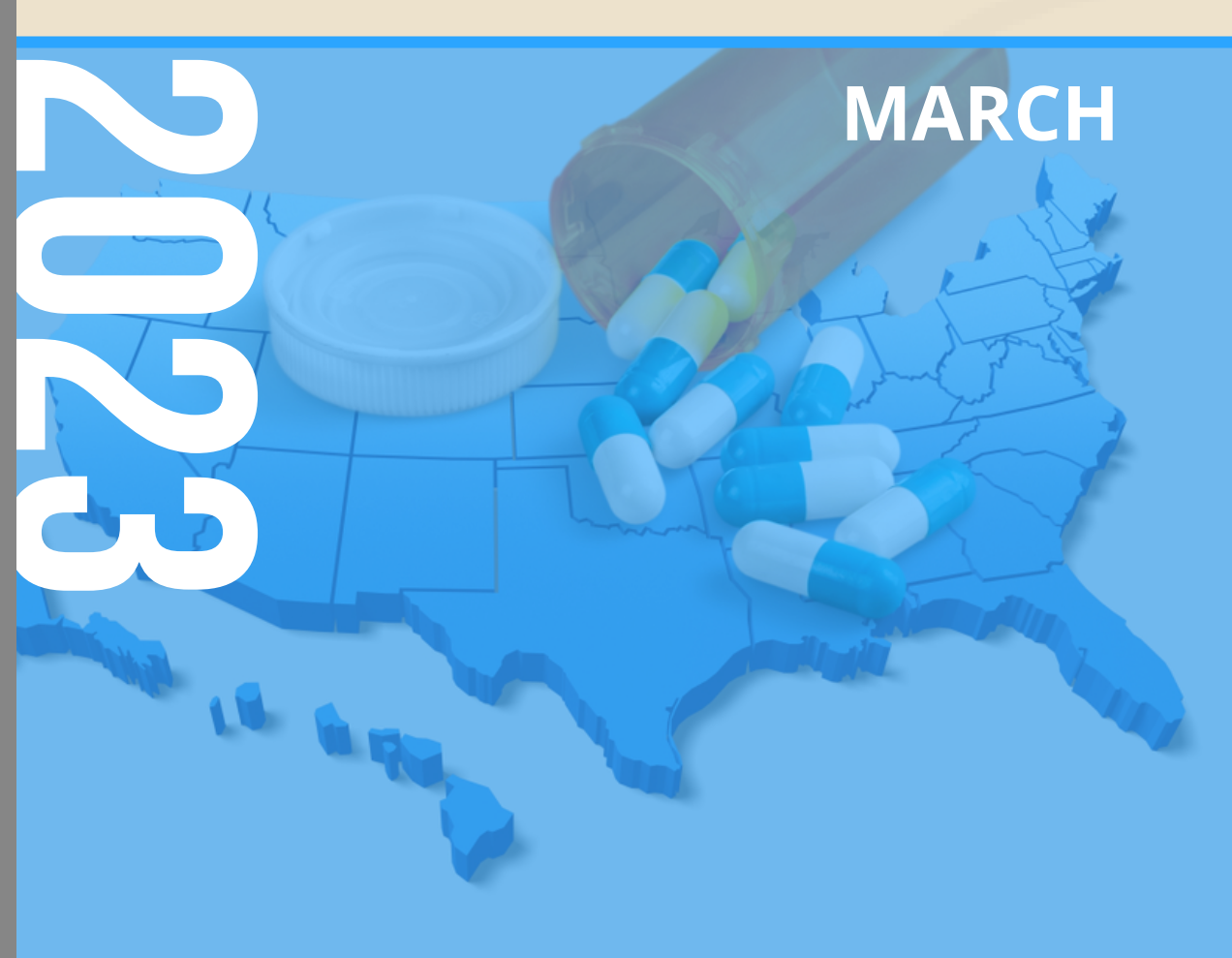
The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act

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



Temporary Policy Changes in Response to COVID-19

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.



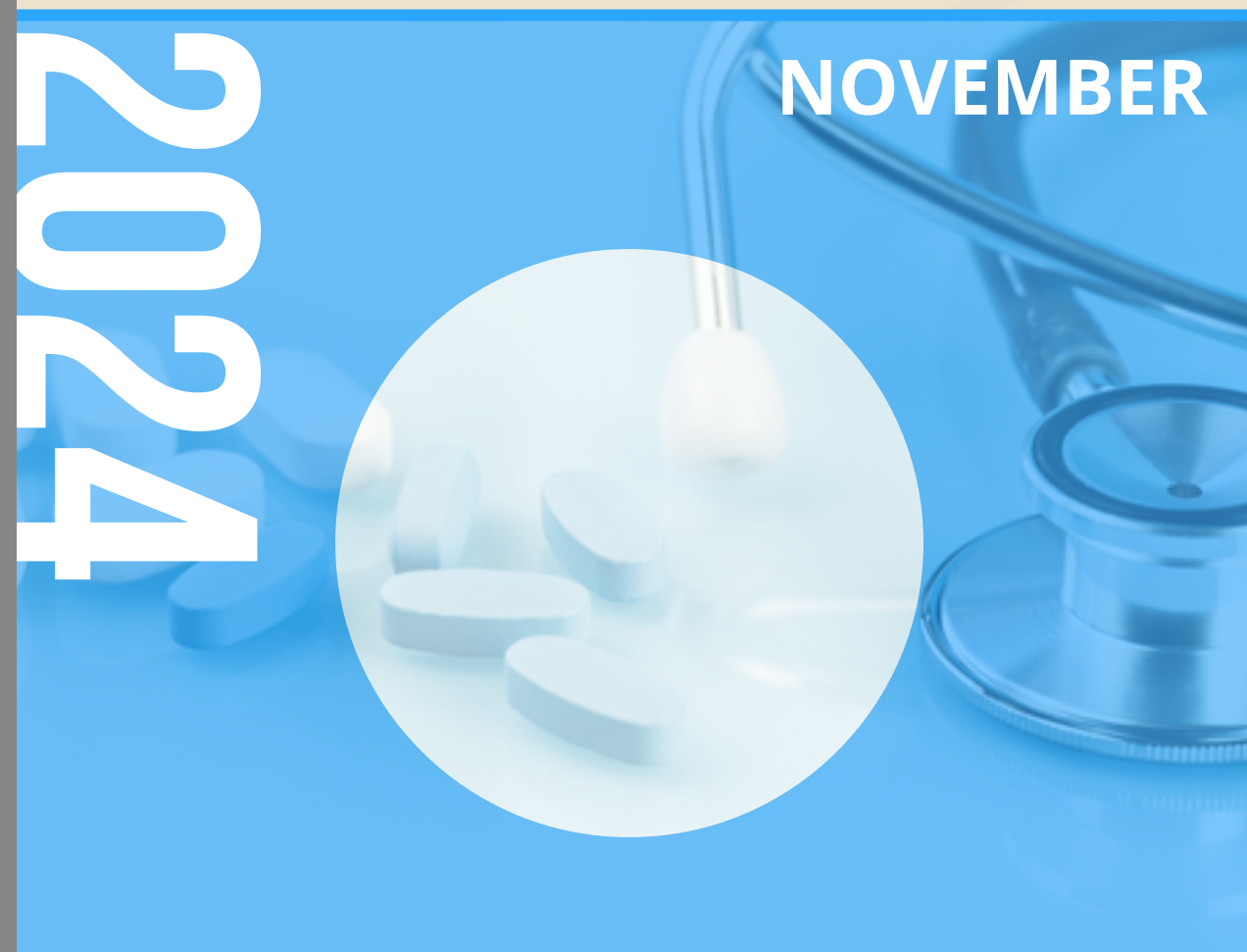
Temporary Rule is Issued

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



Additional Temporary Rule Issued

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



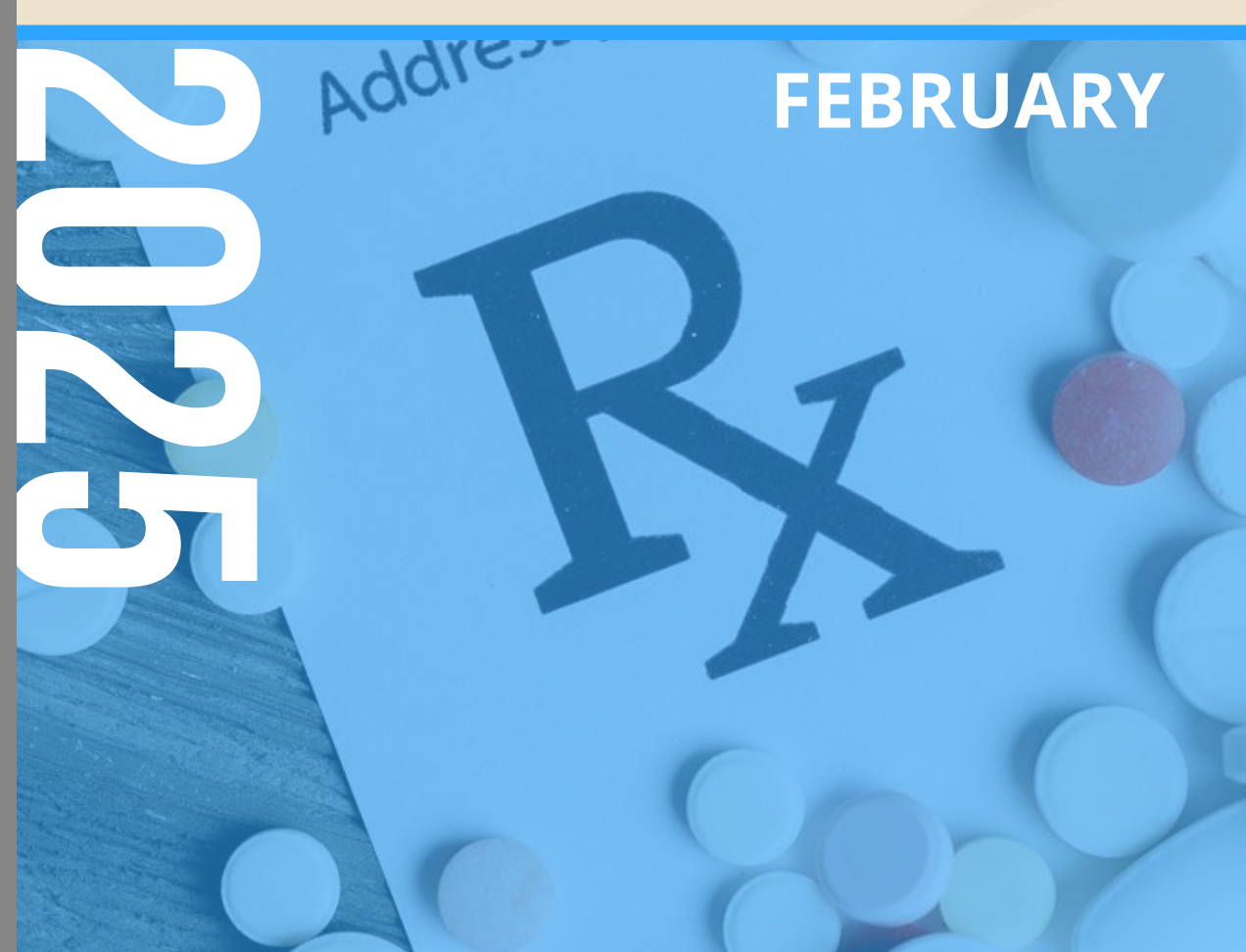
Third Extension of Telemedicine Prescribing Flexibilities

The third temporary extension of temporary Telemedicine flexibilities allows for the prescription of controlled medications without an in-person visit until December 31, 2025.



DEA Finalizes New Rules

DEA finalizes rules to create exceptions from in-person prescribing under certain circumstances for buprenorphine treatment and veterans' affairs patients, initially slated to go into effect Feb. 18. They also proposed a rule on the Special Registration for Telemedicine with a comment deadline of March 18, 2025



Effective Date for Buprenorphine and VA Final Rules Delayed

DEA and HHS delay effective date for final buprenorphine treatment and Veterans Affairs (VA) rules to March 21. Request for comments on the effective date and other issues due Feb. 28, 2025.



Final Rules Effective, Special Registration Rule Comment Deadline

The effective date of the buprenorphine and Veterans Affairs rule is currently set for March 21, 2025. The deadline for comments on the special registration rule are also due March 18, 2025



Current Expiration Date of Prescribing Flexibilities

As of February 25, 2025 the currently set expiration date for the temporary prescribing flexibilities is **December 31, 2025.**

