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Timeline of the ATA’s DEA/Ryan Haight Actions

Shaded rows indicate actions taken to communicate directly with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

Oct 2015	The ATA started to put fire under the DEA to create the special registration for telemedicine. The messaging at that time focused heavily on applications of controlled substance prescribing for child and adolescent telepsychiatry. The ATA sent a letter to the DEA with suggestions for how a special registration process could be structured to safely enable the prescribing of certain controlled substances via telepsychiatry.
Oct 2018	In response to the mandate from H.R. 6, the ATA convened a special member workgroup within its Telebehavioral Health Special Interest Group. The workgroup developed five recommendations for how a special registration process could be structured to enable the safe prescribing of certain controlled substances via telehealth.
Jan 2019	The ATA sends recommendations to the Drug Enforcement Agency regarding the special registration process for telehealth under the Ryan Haight Act.
July 2019	The ATA co-hosted a briefing with the District Policy Group, Alyvant, HealthyWomen, and Men’s Health Network on expanding access to telemedicine prescribing: outlook and discussion on the anticipated DEA Special Registration Rule for Telemedicine.
Sept 2019	The ATA, along with a number of healthcare stakeholders, submitted a letter with comments on the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) implementation of a Special Registration provision for telemedicine under the Ryan Haight Act. This letter strongly urged the DEA to consider how the design of the process and criteria for special registrations for controlled substance prescribing through telemedicine can positively or negatively impact patients living with serious, chronic, disabling, and debilitating conditions – such as obesity, insomnia, substance use disorder, and some psychiatric conditions – in underserved communities.
March 2020	The ATA sent recommendations to the Administration on actions that can immediately be taken to facilitate the use of telehealth including waiving the in-person requirement for controlled substances.
Jan 2022	The ATA along with 335 organizations sent a letter to Congressional leaders urging them to authorize the continuation of all current telehealth waivers through the end of 2024 including the prescription of controlled substances in-person waiver.
March 2022	ATA Action, the American Telemedicine Association, the American Psychiatric Association and 69 other organizations sent a letter DEA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) urging them to permanently waive the requirement that patients receive an in-person evaluation prior to being prescribed controlled substances via telemedicine.
June 2022	The ATA released recommendations on ensuring appropriate treatment and protecting patients through online prescribing.
Nov 2022	The ATA, ATA Action, and 113 other organizations sent a letter to the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Attorney General’s office urging them to act before the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expires and outlining multiple short-term actions that they could take immediately to ensure millions of patients are able to continue receiving treatment where and when they need it until the promulgation of the Special Registration for Telemedicine Rules.