



### **Advocating for Addressing Barriers to Telehealth During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

The Joint Commission and health care stakeholders [sent a letter to congressional leaders](#) urging Congress to address barriers preventing health care providers from fully leveraging and scaling critical telehealth services needed to combat COVID-19.

### **Improving Patient Safety and Coordinated Care for Substance Use Disorder Patients**

As a member of the Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2, The Joint Commission has long advocated for aligning federal patient consent requirements for purposes of treatment, payment, and operations. The Joint Commission [applauded the passage of legislation](#) in the CARES Act to align 42 CFR Part 2 (regulations that govern the privacy of substance use disorder records) with HIPAA with initial patient consent. This legislation will help to reduce unintended treatment errors and to ensure that substance use disorder patients receive safe, coordinated care during the COVID-19 outbreak and into the future.