



October 1, 2014

Scott Waulters  
President  
New Jersey Health Plan  
United Healthcare New Jersey  
170 Wood Avenue South, 3rd Floor  
Iselin , NJ 08830

Dear Mr. Waulters:

We are writing on behalf of the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) and the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM) regarding Gateway Health's policy for coverage of the new medications for hepatitis C (HCV) that excludes some HIV providers from being authorized prescribers. HIVMA and AAHIVM are professional associations representing HIV clinicians and researchers and collectively we represent a majority of clinicians caring for patients with HIV in the U.S.

We strongly urge you to immediately revise your policy for coverage of HCV treatment, including the newest medications, by adding experienced HIV physicians regardless of their specialty training to the list of covered prescribers. Medical providers from a diversity of specialties, including internal medicine, family medicine, oncology, and obstetrics-gynecology have played a key role in the medical response to HIV. In recognition of this, HIVMA<sup>1</sup> and AAHIVM<sup>2</sup> have developed definitions or credentialing processes to identify expert HIV clinicians. States such as California, have adopted the HIVMA and AAHIVM recommendations for identifying HIV experts.

An estimated one-third of people with HIV in the U.S. are co-infected with HCV and liver disease is one of the leading causes of death in people with HIV. HIV providers have been managing the care and treatment for HCV for their co-infected patients for many years and are best equipped to co-manage treatment for both conditions, particularly given the high cost and potential serious harms of treatment failure to the patient, to the health care system and to public health.

HIV providers have extensive experience managing complex antiretroviral drug regimens in a highly vulnerable patient population and delivering care as part of a team to support the high

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<sup>1</sup> See *Identifying Providers Qualified to Manage the Longitudinal Treatment of Patients with HIV Infection and Resources to Support Quality HIV Care*. Updated March 2013. Online at <http://www.hivma.org/Defining-HIV-Expertise.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> See *Practicing HIV Specialist – Eligibility Requirements*. Online at <http://www.aahivm.org/aahivs>.

adherence rates critical to achieving viral suppression. A similar care model and clinical knowledge base is necessary to achieve success with the new HCV antiviral regimens.

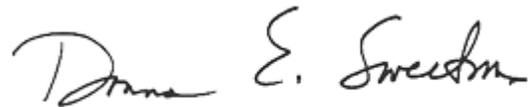
We urge you to immediately revise the policy that excludes HIV providers who are not specialists in infectious diseases, gastroenterology or hepatology from prescribing the new HCV medications.

Please contact us via the HIVMA Executive Director Andrea Weddle at [aweddle@hivma.org](mailto:aweddle@hivma.org) or the AAHIVM Executive Director Jim Friedman at [jfriedman@aahivm.org](mailto:jfriedman@aahivm.org) to schedule a meeting to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Gallant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joel Gallant, MD, MPH  
Chair, HIVMA Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna E. Sweet". The signature is cursive and clearly legible.

Donna Sweet, MD  
Chair, AAHIVM Board of Directors