



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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## **ADAP Advocacy Association Urges Drug Manufacturers to Design Streamlined Patient Assistance Program Enrollment Process; Standard industry-wide application would improve access to care**

*Heinz-Welvista Solution Praised for its Innovative Approach to Linking HIV/AIDS Patients to Treatment*

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 1, 2010) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today called on all drug manufacturers of highly active antiretroviral treatments (“HAART”) to design a streamlined enrollment process for their respective patient assistance programs (“PAPs”). HIV/AIDS patients currently on waiting lists to access their medications under the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (“ADAPs”) would be better-served if existing barriers to care were eliminated by the drug companies collaborating together to simplify their PAP application and eligibility.

“While the drug companies should be applauded for their ongoing efforts to provide free medications to people living with HIV/AIDS presently on ADAP waiting lists, there still remain numerous barriers to care – among them, a complex application and eligibility process,” summarized **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “Unfortunately, ADAPs will remain in crisis until President Obama and Congress find the missing \$101 million for fiscal year 2010. In the meantime, we need to find innovative solutions that link ADAP waiting list patients to the appropriate care in an effective and timely manner. A streamlined enrollment process would accomplish this objective!”

**aaa+** suggests that the Heinz-Welvista solution is an excellent first step in this process – but presently only Abbot Laboratories, Merck & Co. and Tibotec Therapeutics have entered into an agreement with Welvista Pharmacy, although other companies are expected to participate soon. The program eliminates all enrollment forms for these patients. Enrollment is virtually automatic for anyone certified on an ADAP waiting list and can provide direct access to no-cost...HIV medications through Welvista.

Said **William Arnold**, **aaa+** board president and Executive Director of the [Community Access National Network](http://www.cannet.org): “Multiple applications to pharmaceutical company Patient Assistance Programs with differing eligibility are a significant barrier to access to drugs and they present significant administrative burdens for clinics, case managers and support personnel in HIV/AIDS health care and support settings. In many places, underserved and disadvantaged populations may simply give up trying to deal with the complexities of five or six different medications from five or six drug manufacturers. A single application form with a single entry point for each patient for ALL their prescribed drug is not only a major administrative leap forward, but an idea whose time has definitely now come.”

To learn more about the ADAP waiting lists or the ADAP Advocacy Association, please contact Brandon M. Macsata by phone at (305) 519-4256 or email at [info@adapadvocacyassociation.org](mailto:info@adapadvocacyassociation.org).

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