



ADAP Advocacy Association
PO Box 846
Nags Head, NC 27959

adapadvocacy.org

Board of Directors:

Co-Chair

William E. Arnold
Washington, D.C.

Co-Chair

Philip A. Haddad, M.D.
Shreveport, LA

Secretary

Jen Laws
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Treasurer

Wanda Brendle-Moss
Winston-Salem, NC

Guy Anthony
New York, NY

Elmer Cerano
Lansing, MI

Eric Flowers
Oakland, CA

Lyne Fortin
Montreal, Canada

Hilary M. Hansen
Washington, DC

Lisa Johnson-Lett
Birmingham, AL

Theresa Nowlin
Dorchester, MA

Glen Pietrandoni, R.Ph.
Chicago, IL

Jennifer Vaughan
Watsonville, CA

CEO

Brandon M. Macsata
Washington, D.C.

Directors Emeritus:

Michelle Anderson
John D. Kemp, Esq.
Gary Rose – *in memoriam*
Joyce Turner Keller
Rani Whitfield, MD

ADAP Advocacy Association Concerned Over Medicare Part D Demo

“Medicare’s six protected classes policy is an essential patient safeguard for beneficiaries living with HIV”

For Immediate Release:
January 29, 2021

Media Contact:
info@adapadvocacy.org

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The ADAP Advocacy Association today urged the Biden-Harris Administration to pump the brakes on the harmful demonstration project authorized under Medicare Part D, which would undermine important patient protections. Left unchecked the change would limit patient access to medications covered by the six protected classes policy.

“It comes as no surprise to many of us in the patient advocacy community that the Trump Administration would take one last swing at the Medicare program,” said Brandon M. Macsata, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy. “We are proud to stand with the Part D Access members in opposition to any attempt to weaken Medicare’s six protected classes policy. This demonstration project is deeply misguided, and it would only serve to harm patients with chronic health issues.”

In Medicare Part D, the six protected classes policy protects vulnerable seniors and low-income beneficiaries with serious and complex health conditions, while also allowing Part D insurance plans to use the tools they need to control costs. Medicines for some of the sickest patients in Part D are covered within the six protected classes, including those for cancer, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS and mental illness. Many of these conditions require patients to attempt a variety of therapies before they and their doctor settle on the most appropriate treatment, so there is no one-size fits all medicine for these conditions.¹

Said Guy Anthony: “I’m deeply concerned as someone living with HIV and Bipolar disorder. Insurers would be allowed to institute new prior authorization or step therapy requirements – or ‘fail first’ – as community advocates commonly call it. Let’s be clear, no patient should fail before being afforded life-saving treatment.”

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, or Medicare Part D, please email info@adapadvocacy.org.

#####

About the ADAP Advocacy Association: The ADAP Advocacy Association mission is to promote and enhance the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improves access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. **aaa+**[®] works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders to raise awareness, offer patient educational programs, and foster greater community collaboration.

¹ Johnson, Juliet (2019, January 24). New research shows changes to the six protected classes would harm most vulnerable patients and are unnecessary. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.