



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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ADAP Advocacy Association Applauds CMS Decision to Guarantee Access to Care & Treatment under Marketplace Exchanges

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 25, 2014) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**®, today applauded the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for their recent interim final rule requiring health insurance companies participating in the Marketplace Exchange under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to accept third-party payments from Ryan White CARE Act funds for cost sharing and premiums. The mandate alleviates one of the unintended barriers that could have prevented access to care for patients living with HIV/AIDS.

Hundreds of patients living with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana and North Dakota were facing uncertain futures in their search for health insurance through the Marketplace Exchanges. At the end of last year, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana announced that they would no longer be accepting insurance premium payments from third party payers. On the surface, this decision might not seem like such a big deal, but digging deeper it reveals the potentially troubling reality for patients living with HIV/AIDS receiving supports and services under the Ryan White CARE Act, which in this scenario would be one of those third party payers.

“The ruling handed down by CMS last week is a step in the right direction,” stated **Brandon Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “Our principal concern is for the low-income people living with HIV/AIDS in these states. However, the anxieties surrounding this issue don’t stop there. We have been highly disturbed by the issue of precedent, because had CMS not addressed this issue through a mandate, BCBS’s actions may very well have bled over into other states, further jeopardizing the health of thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS.”

To view the interim final rule, go to http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2014-06031_PI.pdf.

Without CMS intervention, patients suddenly could have lost access to the medications they must take to stay alive. The swift action taken by CMS to remedy this distressing situation is welcome news for patients living with HIV/AIDS.

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association or its support of the CMS mandate, please contact Brandon M. Macsata at info@adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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