

INPUT
from the
HIV Medicine Access
Workgroup

Provided to the LGBTQ Commission
as they prepare a Brief Report to the
Washington State Legislature
in accordance with

Budget Proviso Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5090
Sections 118.a-b and 211.48.a-c (6)(a) and (6)(b)

October 2021

I. Summary

[Summary of issues and reason for Workgroup here; borrow heavily from Manny's summary during August 23 meeting.]

[List any firm recommendations. Major topics and issues that were discussed but did not generate a recommendation will be listed as well. All will be described in more detail later in report.]

II. About this Input Report

The purpose of this Input Report is to meet the request of the Washington State Legislature for a group of stakeholders to provide input to and collaborate with the LGBTQ Commission (Commission) as the Commission makes recommendations on the following issues related to access to HIV medications:

- i. Access to HIV antiretroviral drugs on the medicaid drug formulary, including short- and long-term fiscal implications of eliminating current prior authorization and fail-first requirements;
- ii. Impact of drug access on public health and the statewide goal of reducing HIV transmissions; and
- iii. Maximizing pharmaceutical drug rebates for HIV antiretroviral drugs.

III. Key Issues and Recommendations

The Workgroup shares these common perspectives:

- Treatment is prevention
- The priority is always the health of the patient.
- Access to antiretroviral drugs should be easy, regardless of whether a patient is on medicaid.
- Decisions about medications should be made within the physician-patient relationship, not by outside groups or entities.

- Underserved communities experience obstacles when they initiate or undergo treatment for HIV/AIDs. These affect the efficacy of treatment plans. The efficacy of a particular antiretroviral drug in clinical trials is not an adequate proxy for the efficacy of that drug in peoples' real lives.
- Controlling costs is important and is a mandate of the State.
- How to keep costs down while simultaneously getting the best care to medicaid patients is the challenge – and it is a huge challenge.

*I - **Access** to HIV antiretroviral drugs on the medicaid drug formulary, including short- and long-term fiscal implications of eliminating current prior authorization and fail-first requirements.*

Setting Out the Issues on ACCESS:

- **TOPIC 1 ON ACCESS:** How to create a process that offers equitable access for all populations on medicaid. To do this we must identify and address the features that impact access and create barriers (e.g., transportation, rural vs urban, mental health, etc.)
- **TOPIC 2 ON ACCESS:** How to assure that ARVs are affordable: for patient, for institution and for HCA.
- **TOPIC 3 ON ACCESS:** How to make the process to access ARV meds through medicaid easier to understand – it's complicated!

*II - **Impact** of drug access on public health and the statewide goal of reducing HIV transmissions.*

Setting Out the Issues on IMPACT:

- **TOPIC 1 ON IMPACT:** Adequacy of tools and systems for gathering and analyzing data so we know if the HCA system for making ARV meds available is effective.
- **TOPIC 2 ON IMPACT:** Adherence challenges to people keeping to their ARV medicine regimes – what are these, and how do can these be addressed.
- **TOPIC 3 ON IMPACT:** How advertising affects drug choice.

*III - Maximizing pharmaceutical drug **rebates** for HIV antiretroviral drugs*

Setting Out the Issues on REBATES:

- **TOPIC 1 ON REBATE:** Clear information about how all rebates work is sorely lacking.
- **TOPIC 2 ON REBATE:** A consequence of this complexity is that providers may not know which rebates benefit their patients the most. Streamline and clarify the process by which healthcare providers learn about and choose medications for their patients.

IV. For Further Inquiry and Discussion

- **Evaluate and Update the End AIDs 2020 Plan**
- **Unveiling Actual Costs: A Nationwide Issue with Implications for Patient Outcomes**

V. [Other]

(Open section. May included clearly labeled observations of mediator / facilitator team and/or LGBTQ Commission staff and leadership.)

Appendix 1: Budget Proviso

[exact language and full citation]

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Appendix 2: Summaries of Meetings

[Aug 23 meeting]
[Sept 13 meeting]
[Sept 20 Town Hall]
[Oct 4 meeting]
[Oct 14 Town Hall]
[Oct 25 meeting]

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Appendix 3: How We Operate Guide

[presented at Aug 23 meeting]

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***Appendix 4:
Bibliography / Resources Used during
Discussions at Workgroup Meetings***

[Aug 23 meeting]

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