



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

*Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment*

4/27/2010

Dear Provider:

The South Carolina AIDS Drug Assistance Program (S.C. ADAP) is facing an unprecedented crisis. Due to a sustained increase in the numbers of patients served and significant budget rescissions, S.C. ADAP implemented a wait list for direct dispensing services on March 15, 2010. As of April 22, 2010, there were 57 patients on the wait list. In the absence of additional funding, the program will be forced to remove an estimated 900 active patients from the program by September 1, 2010.

S.C. ADAP has grown significantly over the past few years. The program served an average of 2100 patients a month last year, representing an increase of nearly 15% from the previous year. However, funding of the current year has decreased drastically from last year. HRSA ADAP Base funding was cut by 3%, HRSA ADAP Supplemental funding was cut by 21% and S.C. State funds will likely be cut by over 51%.

Given the inadequate funding and escalating patient load, the S.C. ADAP will be required to remove currently active patients from the program to remain fiscally solvent. The program is currently exploring strategies to move patients from the direct dispensing program to other viable payer sources and we need your help in these efforts.

As you are aware, all Ryan White programs including ADAP must be the payer of last resort. Patients are enrolled in ADAP with the understanding that they do not qualify for other federal or state-funded assistance programs. We must ensure that this is the case with all of the patients who are enrolled in ADAP. It is critical that you work diligently to ensure that all of your patients are accessing any other possible payer source available to them. Ensuring that your patients access their private insurance and apply for Medicaid are two things that you can do to help.

S.C. ADAP staff will continue to communicate with you as the situation progresses. We are committed to working together with you to ensure that our patients have access to the medications they need.



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Please remember that the Insurance Assistance Program policies will not be revised at this time and we will continue to accept Insurance Assistance applications.

We appreciate your help and support and understand the difficulty this presents to many of your patients. Please feel free to contact the S.C. ADAP staff with your questions.

Sincerely,

Anand Nagarajan, MBBS, MPH

ADAP Director

STD/HIV Division

Cc: Wayne Duffus, MD, STD/HIV Medical Director

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