



FR Doc No: 2013-06031; Notice Mar 14, 2014
Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;
Third Party Payment of Qualified Health Plan Premiums



April 1, 2014

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS-9943-IFC
P.O. Box 8016
Baltimore, MD 21244-8016

To Whom It May Concern:

The Community Access National Network (CANN) and the ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+®) are pleased to submit the following joint statement in response to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Center for Medicare & Medicaid Service's (CMS) solicitation for public comment in the Federal Register [FR Doc No: 2014-06081] on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Third Party Payment of Qualified Health Plan Premiums. Our two organizations work closely with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders to assure that access to healthcare, services and treatment recognize are afforded to persons living with HIV/AIDS.

CANN is a national 501c3 nonprofit organization working to improve access to comprehensive medical services for people living with HIV and Hepatitis C. aaa+® is a national 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improving access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

To that end, both organizations are committed to focusing on the stability of the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP); we strive to improve access to timely care and treatment by ensuring that there are adequate resources nationwide to eliminate or prevent waiting lists for services, as well as preventing other cost containment strategies that ultimately result in restricting access to healthcare, services and treatment. A commonality between our organizations is to better engage people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) by providing a platform whereby they can offer their personal experiences, challenges, knowledge, insight and solutions to solving this perpetual problem.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend CMS on their interim final rule, mandating that insurance companies accept third-party payments from Ryan White grantees. It is our position that requiring issuers of Qualified Health Plans to accept premium and cost-sharing payments made on behalf of enrollees in the Ryan White programs – such as the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs – will have a direct positive impact on the lives of low-income people living with HIV/AIDS.



FR Doc No: 2013-06031; Notice Mar 14, 2014
Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;
Third Party Payment of Qualified Health Plan Premiums



April 1, 2014

This decision comes at the recommendation of many groups in the medical community, public health advocates, and HIV/AIDS organizations. We applaud the swift action taken by CMS and DHHS on this matter.

Thank you for consideration of these comments above,

Respectfully,

William E. Arnold
Executive Director
Community Access National Network
1724 Florida Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Brandon M. Macsata
CEO
ADAP Advocacy Association
PO Box 15275
Washington, DC 20003