



August 27, 2015

Gregg Alton
Executive Vice President of Corporate and Medical Affairs
Gilead Sciences
333 Lakeside Drive
Foster City, CA 94404

Dear Mr. Alton:

We are writing on behalf of the HIV Medicine Association, the American Academy of HIV Medicine and the Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition to urge Gilead Sciences to negotiate additional rebates or discounts with state Medicaid programs for their Single Tablet Regimens (STRs) to prevent harmful restrictions from being applied to these medications.

We are aware of an increasing number of states placing or proposing to place Single Tablet Regimens (STR) on their non-preferred drug lists and requiring prior authorization for STRs. For example, Georgia Medicaid recently came very close to moving three STRs, including Stribild®, to its non-preferred drug list with a prior authorization requirement until local providers and other advocates intervened.ⁱ

We are very concerned that the actions taken by state Medicaid programs to restrict access to antiretroviral drugs through prior authorization will result in treatment delays or treatment denials for our patients. In addition, HIV clinics and clinicians will incur increased administrative burden and costs at a time when many are already struggling to meet the increased demand for HIV care.

Our organizations are committed to meeting the updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy targets, including achieving viral suppression for 80% of people with HIV in the U.S. by 2020. State Medicaid programs play a significant and growing role in the financing of HIV care and will be critical to our success.

Please help by working with state Medicaid programs to ensure that efforts to control antiretroviral drug costs do not come at the expense of our patients. We urge Gilead Sciences to negotiate drug prices with Georgia Medicaid and other state Medicaid programs to allow for HIV treatment decisions to be left to HIV clinicians and their patients.

Sincerely,

Adaora Adimora, MD, MPH
Chair, HIVMA

Zalalem Temesgen, MD
Chair, AAHIVM

Alice Thornton, MD
Co-Chair, RWMPC

ⁱ Georgia Department of Community Health. The Drug Utilization Review Board Reviewed the Following New Drugs and Supplemental Rebate Classes on June 4, 2015. Online at:
https://dch.georgia.gov/sites/dch.georgia.gov/files/June%202015%20DURB_Recommendations_Final.pdf.