



November 6, 2019

Phil Kurdunowicz
Bureau of Medicaid Policy, Operations, and Actuarial Services
Medical Services Administration
P.O. Box 30479
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Healthy Michigan Plan Updates

Dear Mr. Kudunowicz,

On behalf of people with cystic fibrosis (CF) living in Michigan, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) Healthy Michigan Plan updates.

Cystic fibrosis is a rare, life-threatening genetic disease that affects approximately 1,150 people in Michigan, including over 230 adults who rely on Medicaid for some or all of their health coverage. CF causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and digestive system, which can lead to life-threatening infections. Cystic fibrosis is both serious and progressive; lung damage caused by infection is irreversible and can have a lasting impact on length and quality of life.

We appreciate Michigan's decision to explicitly exempt those living with cystic fibrosis from the community engagement and cost-sharing requirements. This recognizes the important reality that for people with CF, ability to work can vary with changes in health status. Likewise, we are pleased to see the state plans to leverage existing resources like the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS) to identify and automatically exempt medically frail beneficiaries and to allow beneficiaries to self-attest to their health status.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation appreciates your continued commitment to ensuring access to vital care and treatments for people with CF in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mary B. Dwight in black ink.

Mary B. Dwight
Senior Vice President of Policy & Advocacy

Handwritten signature of Lisa Feng in black ink.

Lisa Feng, DrPH
Senior Director of Policy & Advocacy