



October 3, 2018

Thomas J. Betlach
Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 E. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Re: AHCCCS Complete Care Transition

Dear Mr. Betlach,

On behalf of people in Arizona living with cystic fibrosis (CF), we write regarding the transition to Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Complete Care (ACC). We appreciate the state's effort to integrate behavioral and physical health care as coordinated, multidisciplinary care is a core component of the CF care model. However, we urge you to closely monitor this transition and ensure patients with chronic health conditions like CF successfully navigate coverage under their new health plan.

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects 513 people in Arizona and 35,000 children and adults in the United States. CF causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and digestive system, which can lead to life-threatening infections. CF Foundation-accredited care centers employ a multidisciplinary approach to treat this complex, multisystem condition. CF clinicians are experts in the evidence-based, peer-reviewed clinical practice guidelines that form the standard of care for people with this rare disease. Without access to specialized CF care, the risks of lung exacerbations, irreversible lung damage, costly hospitalizations, and decreased quality of life increase drastically.

We appreciate the protections outlined to ensure continuity of care for patients receiving services related to Children's Rehabilitative Services-qualifying conditions or an active course of treatment for serious chronic conditions for the duration of treatment or six months, whichever occurs first. We urge AHCCCS to closely monitor the ACC transition in the coming months and into 2019. We are concerned that there may be individuals who will not become aware of changes to their health plans until they seek care. We also request that AHCCCS designs a simple, expedited exceptions process should people with CF require network exceptions to access necessary care.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to working with the state of Arizona to ensure access to high-quality, specialized CF care. Please consider us a resource moving forward.

Sincerely,

Lisa Feng, DrPH
Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy