



AHCCCS Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee

December 23, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ravi Grivois-Shah. I am a family physician who has provided HIV treatment to patients for years, most of whom were low income, Spanish-speaking patients. Currently, I serve as the CEO of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), which provides care management and services to nearly 1500 individuals living with HIV.

I write to strongly support the AHCCCS P&T Committee review of HIV treatment regimen formularies, specifically approval of single-tablet, once-daily regimens for the treatment of HIV.

The data support what I know from my own patients as a family physician: the simpler the regimen the better the adherence and outcomes for the patient.

AHCCCS must do all that it can to support patient compliance with their HIV treatment regimen, including approval without prior authorization or barriers to care of single-tablet, once-daily regimens.

Improved access to these simplified regimens will improve adherence to treatment and reduce disparities in treatment outcomes for Arizona's most vulnerable communities. We will see improved viral suppression, improved CD4 counts, and outcomes for our patients. With fewer complications of HIV and less individuals in an immunocompromised state, there will be less burden on our healthcare infrastructure, less costs to AHCCCS, and improved quality of life for so many Arizonans.

Additionally, improved adherence and viral suppression will help end transmission of HIV, and undetectable viral loads means that patients with HIV are not able to transmit HIV to others. This will prevent new HIV acquisition and lower the total number of vulnerable individuals with HIV in the long run, again reducing costs to AHCCCS.

SAAF fully supports AHCCCS in reducing barriers to single-tablet, once-daily regimens for the treatment of HIV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ravi Grivois-Shah".

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Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

SAAF's mission is to cultivate a healthy and stigma-free society through transformative action.