May 15, 2015

Karen Mark, MD, MPH

### Chief of the Office of AIDS SENT VIA EMAIL: Karen.Mark@cdph.ca.gov

California Department of Public Health

**RE: ADAP Treatment Authorization Policy for Hepatitis C Drugs**

Dear Karen,

We are pleased that the State Office of AIDS will update its treatment authorization policy to allow coverage of hepatitis C treatment for all ADAP patients with hepatitis C, regardless of stage of fibrosis and that the policy will include at least one of the new all oral direct acting antiviral (DAA) combination regimens. We thank you for your leadership and ensuring access to curative therapy for co-infected ADAP patients, who are vulnerable to accelerated liver damage caused by hepatitis C. In addition, we thank you for supporting this tremendous public health effort, which will stem the tide of ongoing hepatitis C transmission through a “cure as prevention” approach.

We would like to understand the process for appeals/exceptions for patients who cannot use Viekira Pak, the preferred drug. If one exists, we would like to review it and help to ensure that it is widely disseminated. If there is not a clear process, one should be provided, along with examples of clinical justifications for not using Viekira Pak (such as drug-drug interactions, decompensated liver disease, side effect intolerance or other contraindications). A timeline for the decision-making process, as well as any outside process to be used if a denial is given, should also be described in detail so that providers and patients know what to expect. This will be particularly important going forward if Harvoni receives a co-infection indication this fall, as is currently anticipated.

Again, thank you for your leadership. Please contact us if you have questions or require additional information. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



David Evans

Member of the ADAP Medical Advisory Committee

Director of Research Advocacy, Project Inform

cc:

MAC members

Karen Smith, MD, MPH, Director, California Department of Public Health;

Celia Banda-Brown, ADAP Chief, California Department of Public Health;

Anne Donnelly, Director of Health Care Policy, Project Inform;

Emalie Huriaux, Director of Federal & State Affairs, Project Inform