



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

January 30, 2012

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To all Ryan White/AIDS Drug Assistance Program Clients,

You may have heard that in the future some HIV patients currently covered by Ryan White CARE Act funding for HIV-related medical care and by the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) for prescription medications will have their care and prescriptions paid for by Los Angeles County's Healthy Way LA (HWLA).

HWLA is a health program that covers many services including physician/clinic visits, hospitalization, emergency and urgent care, medications, specialty care, laboratory and diagnostic tests, medical equipment and supplies, mental health services, physical therapy, radiology, women's health screening, some medical transportation and a 24-hour nurse advice line. This program also fully covers HIV medical care and prescription drugs.

By law, Ryan White and ADAP funding is the "payer of last resort" for persons with HIV. In other words, persons who qualify for any other sources for health care coverage cannot have their care paid for by Ryan White and ADAP. The federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) have determined that persons eligible for HWLA will need to transition from Ryan White/ADAP to HWLA. It is not yet clear when the transition will begin, but we believe it will be sometime after July 2012.

Patients are eligible for HWLA if they meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Residency: Los Angeles County
- Age: Adult, 19 to 64 years of age
- Citizenship: U.S. Citizen/National or Legal Permanent Resident for 5 + years
- Income: Monthly income limit (\$1,207 or less for a family of one)
- Pregnancy: Not pregnant or eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families

Ryan White and ADAP clients who do not meet the eligibility criteria for HWLA will continue to have their HIV-related medical care and prescription drugs paid for by Ryan White and ADAP.

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www.dhs.lacounty.gov

To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.



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The Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Health Services (DHS), in partnership with the LAC Department of Public Health (DPH) and the LAC Department of Mental Health (DMH), is doing everything possible to ensure a smooth transition of care for patients who will be transitioning to HWLA. To enable Ryan White clients to remain with their current health care providers, LAC HWLA has offered HWLA contracts to all current Ryan White providers. This means you shouldn't need to change doctors. You can contact your current health care provider to verify whether or not it will be participating in HWLA.

We are working hard to create a network of pharmacies under HWLA that can meet the needs of our patients. The new network will include onsite pharmacies currently operated by some clinics, as well as DHS pharmacies and other community pharmacies. Some of these pharmacies will have the ability to mail prescriptions to you at your home address. We will focus on making sure patients have access to participating pharmacies near the clinic where they receive medical services, or through mail service programs. Patients who transition to HWLA will receive a list of network pharmacies from the clinics where they receive care.

Once the transition starts, patients will be transferred at the time of their annual ADAP eligibility redetermination process. When patients are screened for other sources of coverage (for example Medi-Cal) by ADAP eligibility workers, they will also be screened for HWLA eligibility. Patients will continue to be covered for HIV-related medical care and prescriptions by Ryan White/ADAP while awaiting final determination on their HWLA enrollment to prevent a gap in care.

Los Angeles County is committed to preserving continuity of care and, accessible pharmacy options for HIV patients during the transition to HWLA. For more information about HWLA, call 1-877-333-HWLA or go to www.ladhs.org/hwla. A list of FAQs for Ryan White/ADAP patients transitioning to HWLA can be accessed at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/aids/HealthcareReform/FAQ12-8-11.pdf>. We will post additional updates as more information becomes available about the transition.

Sincerely,



Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director