MIAMI-DADE HIV/AIDS PARTNERSHIP

September 17, 2018

Dear Medical Colleague:

The experience of the Part A/MAI Ryan White Program in Miami-Dade (as well as Ryan White experience in other metro areas) points to a *high incidence of depression, anxiety disorders, mood disorders and adjustment disorders among the HIV-positive patients we care for together.* For many of these patients, their social and emotional problems may interfere with HIV treatment adherence and retention in medical care.

As a reminder, the Ryan White Program provides *Mental Health Services at no cost to eligible Ryan White Program recipients as long as the Ryan White Program is payer of last resort. These services include psychological and psychiatric screenings, assessments, treatment and diagnosis and psychotropic medications that are available on the Ryan White Part A and ADAP formularies.* Mental health services are provided by professional counselors with a wide array of mental health experience and educational backgrounds (e.g., M.S., M.A., L.C.S.W., M.S.W., Ph.D., Ed.D., Psy.D.); psychiatric services are provided under outpatient/ambulatory specialty care. Ryan White Program Medical Case Managers can generate referrals for your patients who may exhibit signs of social, emotional or behavioral distress as a result of his or her HIV disease. Please be sure to ask your patients who their Ryan White Program Medical Case Manager is to ensure a certified referral is generated in a timely manner. If your patients don't have a Medical Case Manager or you have questions, please contact the Quality Management Program-Behavioral Science Research at 305-445-1076 or the Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budget-Office of Grant Coordination/Ryan White Program at 305-375-4742.

A Ryan White Program Medical Case Manager can review the list of Ryan White Program mental health providers to ensure an appropriate and timely linkage to needed mental health services. A copy of the list of available providers can be found in the resources section on page two of this letter. Direct referrals for psychiatric services require a prescription/referral from you so that your patients can be referred by the Ryan White Program Medical Case Manager. If you do have a mental health provider or psychiatrist at your agency, we suggest that behavioral health and medical staff work jointly to provide a seamless treatment plan for your patients.

As the treating physician, your relationship with your patients offers you a unique opportunity to discern the mental health needs of your patients. With your support, your patients can access needed services that can help improve their quality of life and enhance the chances of remaining adherent to treatment and stay retained in care. Please do not let this opportunity pass you by.

Sincerely,

Maria Nolasco-Warden, MD
Chair, Medical Care Subcommittee
Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership

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Resources:

For available Ryan White Program mental health and psychiatric services by provider and location, go to: http://www.miamidade.gov/grants/library/ryanwhite/service-providers-contact-list.pdf

For the latest AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) formulary, including psychotropic medications: http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/aids/adap/adap-formulary.html, or:

For the latest Ryan White Program formulary, including psychotropic medications: http://www.miamidade.gov/grants/library/ryanwhite/prescription-drug-formulary-by-therapeutic-classification.pdf

Mental health issues among HIV-positive patients, see HRSA's ACTION newsletter: https://hab.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hab/Publications/careactionnewsletter/mentalhealth.pdf