



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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October 19, 2018

The Honorable Jessica Altman
Commissioner
Insurance Department
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
1326 Strawberry Square, 13th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Thank you

Dear Commissioner Altman:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and its physician and student members, I write to thank you for your leadership in securing a landmark agreement with health insurers in Pennsylvania to stop prior authorization for medication assisted treatment (MAT) for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) and to ensure affordability of MAT in tiered formularies.

As you know, MAT is the evidence-based standard for treating people with OUD to help sustain recovery and save lives. When a patient is ready for such treatment, time is of the essence, and delays in care have fatal consequences. By removing the most common delay and helping ensure that patients can begin MAT at the point of care, we have no doubt that thousands of lives in Pennsylvania will be saved with this agreement.

We thank you for hearing the concerns of the physician community as to the barriers their patients with OUD face in accessing care, and we are grateful for your continued leadership in addressing the opioid epidemic.

We look forward to opportunities to continue to work with you to end this epidemic. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Emily Carroll, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at emily.carroll@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4967.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD