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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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February 21, 2020

The Honorable Michael Conway
Commissioner
Colorado Division of Insurance
1560 Broadway, Suite 850
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Commissioner Conway:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I am writing to commend your recent action to ensure that someone who receives a prescription for naloxone is not discriminated against for making a decision that can save someone's life. Bulletin No. B-4.103, "Insurers' Consideration of Naloxone Prescriptions in the Underwriting Process," (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S8KHDAMr3qog2b91zwNPbQwFHS4gOp0A/view>) will unquestionably help save lives in Colorado by removing a potential barrier to a life-saving medication.

The AMA has long supported increased availability and use of naloxone to save lives from an opioid-related overdose. The AMA Opioid Task Force encourages physicians and other health care professionals to co-prescribe naloxone to patients at risk of overdose or a family member or friend who may be in a position to help save a life from someone who experiences an overdose. The AMA also encourages private and public payers to include all forms of naloxone on their preferred drug lists and formularies with minimal or no cost sharing. It is inappropriate for any life insurer to use the existence of a naloxone prescription as justification to increase premiums, deny coverage or take other adverse actions.

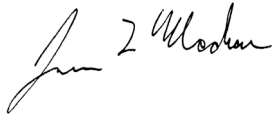
While the nation's opioid epidemic has shifted to one now fueled by heroin and illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, it is more important than ever to encourage the availability and use of naloxone as well as education regarding how to recognize signs of an overdose and how to properly administer naloxone. If it was not for naloxone, there likely would be tens of thousands additional Americans dead each year.

The AMA is proud to provide information about naloxone through its opioid microsite (<https://www.end-opioid-epidemic.org/naloxone/>) and we note that Colorado continues to be a national leader in supporting naloxone to its citizens through its naloxone access law, standing orders, harm reduction centers, work through the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, as well as strong support from the Colorado Medical Society and other leading health care professional groups.

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Please know that the AMA will share your bulletin widely as part of our efforts to support increased use of naloxone as an important tool to help save lives from an opioid-related overdose. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4739.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Colorado Medical Society