



Comments PDAB -PDAB- <comments.pdab@maryland.gov>

Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Agenda

1 message

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To: "comments.pdab@maryland.gov" <comments.pdab@maryland.gov>

I am an Infectious Disease physician practicing in Silver Spring, Maryland, and want to comment on the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Agenda. I often prescribe the Bictarvy to my patients because it is safe and effective in treating HIV and preventing AIDS. I support a cost review, as Bictarvy is an expensive medication. However, you may want to consider starting with another medication as any changes may affect thousands of Maryland residents across the state. Maryland ranked 12th in the country in rates of HIV in 2021. Recent interruptions in the Federally Qualified Health Center care network due to Covid 19 are only now beginning to be felt in our community. In addition, syphilis rates are skyrocketing across Maryland, leaving us all wondering how many new HIV cases may emerge.

Due to the ease and safety of this medication, I often make it a part of my practice to start HIV positive patients on Bictarvy right away. It is an essential tool in my toolchest for treatment. It is my understanding that developing a list of medications is the first step in a new process. Getting a broad base of experts to help the committee understand the potential consequences of changes is a critical first step. The affordability of Bictarvy could be discussed later, when the process is worked out on a smaller scale.

Please reconsider including Bictarvy on the list of drugs for referral to the Stakeholder Council.

Andy Catanzaro, MD

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 [Book time to meet with me](#)

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