



FLORIDA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

STRONG MEDICINE FOR FLORIDA

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January 8, 2010

Philip Stalas, R.Ph., Chair
Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee
3180 Tampa Road
Oldsmar FL 34677
pstalas@tampabay.rr.com

Re: January 13 Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee Meeting

Dear Mr. Stalas:

I have enclosed a letter that was sent in July to every major health insurer in the country by the presidents of our respective national organizations. The letter calls for coverage and reimbursement of smoking cessation services in accordance with the 2008 US Public Health Service Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines.

It is disconcerting that neither our Florida Medical Program, nor our State of Florida Employee Health Plan provides these comprehensive benefits.

The health consequences of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke have been well documented for many years. We are also now aware that treatment of tobacco dependence, including both counseling and pharmacologic intervention, produces a favorable return on investment.

As primary care physicians and the front line providers of health care for Floridians of all ages, our organizations strongly urge you to provide such coverage in both Medicaid and in the state employee health plans.

Sincerely,

Dennis Mayeaux, MD, President
Florida Academy of Family Physicians

James Dolan, MD, President
Florida Medical Association

Maureen Whelihan, MD, President
Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society

Malcolm T. Foster, MD, FACP, President
American College of Physicians
Florida Chapter

Enclosure

cc: Members of the Florida Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee
The Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor
Tom Arnold, Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration
Anne C. Wells, Pharm.D., Bureau Chief, Medicaid Pharmacy Services
Linda South, Secretary, Department of Management Services

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The mission of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians is to promote excellence in health care for Florida citizens, to advance and represent the specialty of family medicine, and to serve the unique needs of its members.