

Email: Rxinfo@dncfp.nv.gov

Regarding Abilify Maintena continued for open access

September 13, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a local northern Nevada mental health professional who regularly uses long-acting injectables (LAIs) to provide research backed and patient-centered care. I currently work in a variety of setting in our community to ensure our mental health population has access to appropriate and timely psychiatric care. I currently work, not only, in my own private practice but also three major medical center emergency rooms in norther Nevada (Northern Nevada Medical Center, Northern Nevada Sierra Medical Center & Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center). In each of these settings I have encountered patients that have struggled with their mental health for extended periods of time. Often these clients struggle with medication compliance which repeatedly results in relapse of their mental health and often also results in relapse of addictions. It has been my experience that the use of LAI results in patient safety, improved treatment compliance, decreased relapses and decrease need for acute care/hospitalization. Additionally, many of my patient's share that they feel that they have regained their dignity as they are not reminded daily, by taking a pill, that they struggle with mental illness. I currently have dozens of patients under my care, who's mental health stability relies on their insurance covering their monthly LAI. I have no doubt that if this option for treatment was no longer available that most of these patient would experience exacerbations of their mental health, increased risk of harm to self and/or others, and increased use of higher level of care facilities to regain stability.

As a mental health professional in our community, I strongly support the continuation of LAIs being covered on formulary for state and private insurance for the reasons mentioned above.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

Best regards,

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