



**Alliance for  
Patient Access**

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips, Executive Commissioner  
Health and Human Services  
Brown-Heatly Building  
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78751-2316

Dear Executive Commissioner Phillips,

This letter is submitted on behalf the Alliance for Patient Access (AfPA), Hepatitis Therapy Access Physicians Working Group and the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR), to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

AfPA is a national network of physicians dedicated to ensuring patient access to approved therapies and appropriate clinical care. The Hepatitis Therapy Access Physicians Working Group is made up of leading practitioners from across the country and came together in 2014 to ensure the perspectives of hepatologists, gastroenterologists, infectious diseases specialists and other clinicians treating patients suffering from hepatitis, are shared with policymakers who are considering issues impacting access to hepatitis therapies.

NVHR is a national coalition of more than 500 members working together to eliminate hepatitis B and C in the United States. NVHR's vision is a healthier world without hepatitis B and C. NVHR is the largest national coalition of community-based organizations, advocates, healthcare providers, and government and industry partners working together to address hepatitis.

We are requesting a meeting with you to review the current prior authorization policies of the Texas Medicaid program related to vital access to the newly available cures for Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and discuss the urgent need to revisit and modify those policies. Those current policies are in direct conflict with the nationally developed medical guidelines for treatment of HCV, and those policies were developed based upon circumstances which have since dramatically changed. This is also one of the most important public health issues facing Texas, and as you are no doubt aware, an issue only compounded by the deepening opioid crisis. Texas has the highest age-adjusted incidence of liver cancer in the country and treatment of HCV is an evidence-based method to decrease the likelihood of developing liver cancer. The current Medicaid access policies are in direct conflict and undermine our state's urgent need to reduce the burden of liver cancer.

We would like to share with you both the broad medical and policy expertise of this group of physicians in this critical area as well as personal experiences in working directly on a daily basis with the Texas Medicaid program on this issue.



**Alliance for  
Patient Access**

On behalf of AfPA, NVHR and the below listed physicians, thank you for your consideration of this meeting request, and we hope to be able to discuss this pressing issue with you soon. If you have further questions, please contact Chris Mohrman at either 202-802-4250 or at [cmohrman@allianceforpatientaccess.org](mailto:cmohrman@allianceforpatientaccess.org).

Sincerely the undersigned,

Alliance for Patient Access (AfPA)  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)  
Mamta Jain, M.D.

Gene Voskukl, M.D., Baylor University Medical Center

Grant Lafaine, M.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center

Victoria Jackson, M.D., Parkland Hospital

Jason Gillman, M.D., Prism Health North Texas

Ellen Kitchell, M.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center

Helen King, M.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center

Pranavi Sreeramoju, M.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center

Jennifer McBryde, M.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center