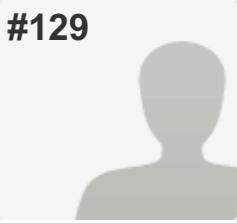


# Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

#129



**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link (Web Link)

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**Q1: OPTIONAL: This recommendation was submitted by (please provide your first and last name, affiliation, and email address)**

First Name	Liana
Last Name	Fixell
Affiliation	Open Door Family Medical Centers
Email Address	lfixell@odfmc.org

**Q2: Title of your recommendation** Insurance plans should implement pharmacy exemption rules

**Q3: Please provide a description of your proposed recommendation**

On June 3, 2013, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office put out a press release stating that "A.G. Schneiderman sends letters urging 15 New York health insurance plans to implement pharmacy exemption rules." This was done in response to the requirement by many commercial insurance plans that clients receive specialty medications, such as antiretrovirals, from a specialty mail-order pharmacy contracted by the insurance plan. This created many barriers for clients and providers who either a) had long-standing relationships with local pharmacies b) had trouble receiving medications by mail and/or c) could not effectively communicate with specialty pharmacies that repeatedly made errors in processing orders and did not send out medications in time. The ETE Taskforce should partner with the AG Health Care Bureau to push insurance plans to implement specialty pharmacy exemptions and make sure it is a seamless process for clients to use a pharmacy that will supply their ART without interruptions.

**Q4: For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? (Select all that apply)**

Linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission

## Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

**Q5: This recommendation should be considered by the following Ending the Epidemic Task Force Committee (Select all that apply)**

Care Committee: Develop recommendations to support access to care and treatment in order to maximize the rate of HIV viral suppression. The Committee will promote linkages and retention in care to achieve viral suppression and promote the highest quality of life while significantly decreasing the risks of HIV transmission. Recommendations will also ensure a person centered approach is taken and that access to culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention and health care services is available.

**Q6: Does this recommendation require a change to an existing policy or program, or the creation of a new policy or program?**

Unknown

**Q7: Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?**

Unknown

**Q8: Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?**

Within the next year

**Q9: What are the perceived benefits of implementing this recommendation?**

The recommendation would benefit PLWHA who have private commercial insurance and have had trouble accessing ART due to the insurance plan's specialty mail-order pharmacy requirement.

**Q10: Are there any concerns with implementing this recommendation that should be considered?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q11: What is the estimated cost of implementing this recommendation and how was this estimate calculated?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q12: What is the estimated return on investment (ROI) for this recommendation and how was the ROI calculated?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q13: Who are the key individuals/stakeholders who would benefit from this recommendation?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q14: Are there suggested measures to accompany this recommendation that would assist in monitoring its impact?**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q15: This recommendation was submitted by one of the following**

Advocate