

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. Mark Bertolini
Aetna Inc.
151 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06156

Dear Mr. Mark Bertolini :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

Drug overdoses kill more Americans than falls, guns, or traffic accidents. Often overlooked, however, is the impact of the opioid epidemic on the Medicare population. The growth of Medicare Part D spending on opioids far outpaces the growth in enrollment, having increased 165 percent from 2006 to 2015. Additionally, among the nearly 12 million Part D beneficiaries who were prescribed opioids in 2015, the average beneficiary received five prescriptions for commonly abused opioids.

We request your assistance in helping us to understand the scope of opioid use disorders in the populations you serve, a description of the activities and best practices your plan has employed to curtail opioid abuse and promote evidence-based treatment for those who are misusing opioids, and an assessment of the challenges you face in addressing this epidemic. We request written responses to the following questions:


1. Are certain problems related to the epidemic (e.g., overprescribing) more prevalent in certain states?
 - a. What is your estimate of the number of beneficiaries at risk for opioid use disorders or dependence in your plans?
 - b. What is your estimate of the number of beneficiaries undergoing treatment?
 - c. What services and treatments are covered by the plan for people who have been diagnosed with an opioid use disorder, beyond care coordination?
2. What types of barriers do you experience to addressing the epidemic in the Medicare population effectively?
 - a. What gaps exist in Medicare's coverage of treatment for opioid use disorder?

- b. Are evidence-based treatments for opioid use disorders universally available to beneficiaries?
 - c. What barriers to patients' access to care (such as out-of-pocket costs or other financial limitations) have you identified in the course of working with beneficiaries who are struggling with opioid use disorders?
3. How does your plan identify and manage overprescribing? How does your plan identify appropriate and inappropriate opioid prescriptions?
 - a. How do you interact with your hospital, physician and other providers when you identify potentially aberrant patterns relating to opioid prescriptions?
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 - a. How do you coordinate across the spectrum of different providers and payers to meet patients' health care needs?
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 - a. What types of data are collected and tracked regularly?
 - b. What types of front-end capabilities do you employ, for example, predictive modeling and analytics, to address opioid misuse?
7. Additionally, we welcome input about legislative or regulatory actions that Congress should examine that could address the opioid epidemic and improve recovery for beneficiaries.


Mr. Mark Bertolini
February 2, 2018
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We ask that you submit your response by February 21, 2018. Thank you for your time and attention and we look forward to hearing back from you on this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Egorin of the Committee on Ways and Means minority staff at (202) 225-4021 or Rachel Pryor of the Committee on Energy and Commerce minority staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Ms. Gail K. Boudreaux
Anthem, Inc.
120 Monument Circle
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Gail K. Boudreaux :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

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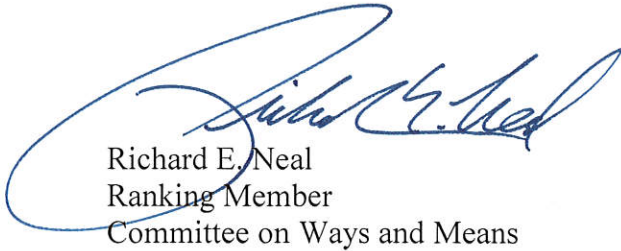
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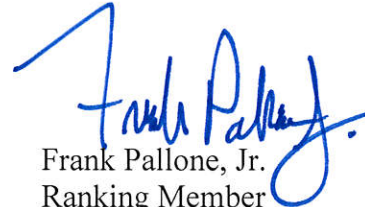
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Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Ms. Pamela B. Morris
CareSource
230 N Main St.
Dayton, OH 45402

Dear Ms. Pamela B. Morris :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

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Sincerely,

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Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means

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Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. Michael Neidorff
Centene Corporation
Centene Plaza
7700 Forsyth Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Michael Neidorff :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

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Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. David Courdani
Cigna Corporate Headquarters
900 Cottage Grove Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Dear Mr. David Courdani :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

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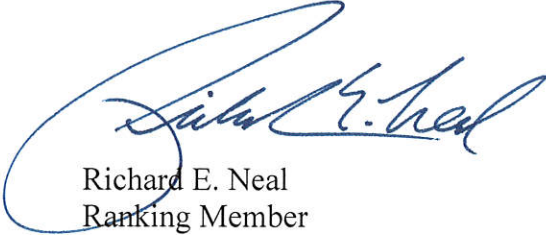
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Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. Christopher Palmieri
Commonwealth Care Alliance
30 Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Christopher Palmieri :

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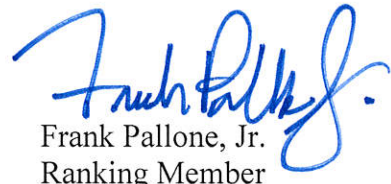
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Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. Eric H. Schultz
Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare
93 Worcester Street
Wellesley, MA 02481

Dear Mr. Eric H. Schultz :

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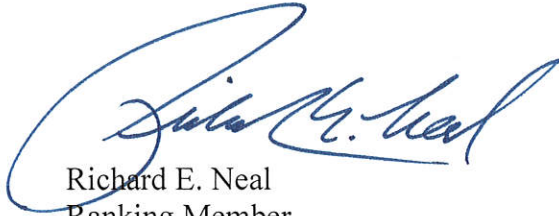
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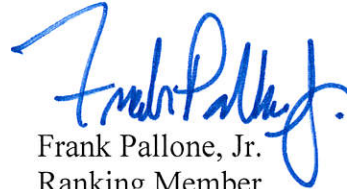
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Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means

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Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. Bruce Broussard
Humana Inc.
500 West Main Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Mr. Bruce Broussard :

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Drug overdoses kill more Americans than falls, guns, or traffic accidents. Often overlooked, however, is the impact of the opioid epidemic on the Medicare population. The growth of Medicare Part D spending on opioids far outpaces the growth in enrollment, having increased 165 percent from 2006 to 2015. Additionally, among the nearly 12 million Part D beneficiaries who were prescribed opioids in 2015, the average beneficiary received five prescriptions for commonly abused opioids.

We request your assistance in helping us to understand the scope of opioid use disorders in the populations you serve, a description of the activities and best practices your plan has employed to curtail opioid abuse and promote evidence-based treatment for those who are misusing opioids, and an assessment of the challenges you face in addressing this epidemic. We request written responses to the following questions:

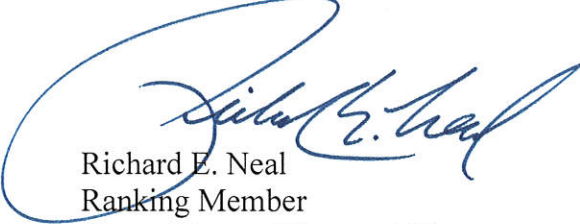
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- b. Are evidence-based treatments for opioid use disorders universally available to beneficiaries?
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7. Additionally, we welcome input about legislative or regulatory actions that Congress should examine that could address the opioid epidemic and improve recovery for beneficiaries.


Mr. Bruce Broussard
February 2, 2018
Page 3

We ask that you submit your response by February 21, 2018. Thank you for your time and attention and we look forward to hearing back from you on this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Egorin of the Committee on Ways and Means minority staff at (202) 225-4021 or Rachel Pryor of the Committee on Energy and Commerce minority staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. Daniel Hilferty
Independence Blue Cross
1901 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Daniel Hilferty :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

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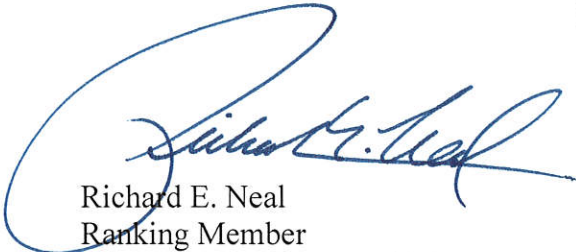
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Mr. Daniel Hilferty
February 2, 2018
Page 3

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Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. Bernard Tyson
Kaiser Permanente
1 Kaiser Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bernard Tyson :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

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We request your assistance in helping us to understand the scope of opioid use disorders in the populations you serve, a description of the activities and best practices your plan has employed to curtail opioid abuse and promote evidence-based treatment for those who are misusing opioids, and an assessment of the challenges you face in addressing this epidemic. We request written responses to the following questions:

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 - c. What services and treatments are covered by the plan for people who have been diagnosed with an opioid use disorder, beyond care coordination?
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 - a. What gaps exist in Medicare's coverage of treatment for opioid use disorder?

- b. Are evidence-based treatments for opioid use disorders universally available to beneficiaries?
 - c. What barriers to patients' access to care (such as out-of-pocket costs or other financial limitations) have you identified in the course of working with beneficiaries who are struggling with opioid use disorders?
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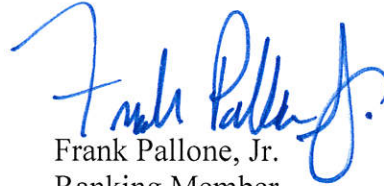
Mr. Bernard Tyson
February 2, 2018
Page 3

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Neal", with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Pallone, Jr.", with a large, stylized initial "F".

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. Chris Wing
Scan Health Plan
3800 Kilroy Airport Way Suite 100
Long Beach, CA 90806

Dear Mr. Chris Wing :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

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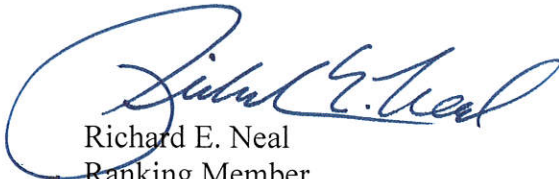
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Mr. Chris Wing
February 2, 2018
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Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means

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Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. David S. Wichmann
UnitedHealth Group
9900 Bren Road East
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Dear Mr. David S. Wichmann :

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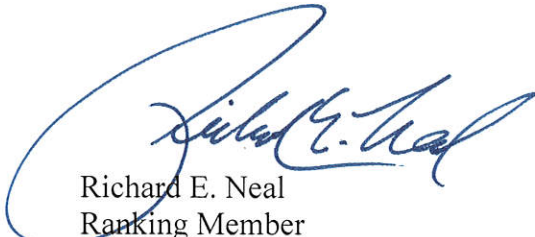
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Mr. David S. Wichmann
February 2, 2018
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Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 2, 2018

Ms. Diane Holder
UPMC Health Plan
U.S. Steel Tower
600 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Ms. Diane Holder :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

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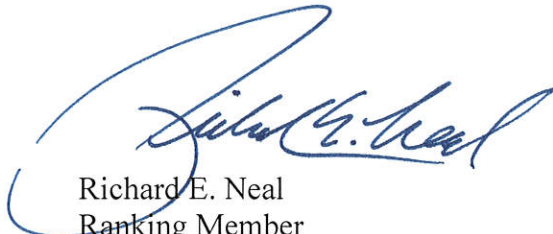
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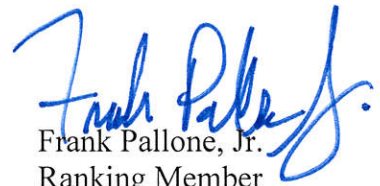
Ms. Diane Holder
February 2, 2018
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Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 2, 2018

Mr. Kenneth A. Burdick
WellCare, Inc.
8725 Henderson Road
Tampa, FL 33634

Dear Mr. Kenneth A. Burdick :

We are writing to request information regarding your plan's efforts to address the opioid crisis and promote evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders in the Medicare population. As Ranking Members for the House Ways & Means Committee, and House Energy & Commerce Committee, we have the responsibility of overseeing the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, which today cover one-third of all Medicare beneficiaries and about 42 million that are enrolled in a Part D plan. We seek your assistance in understanding the challenges you face and the efforts you are undertaking to address this epidemic.

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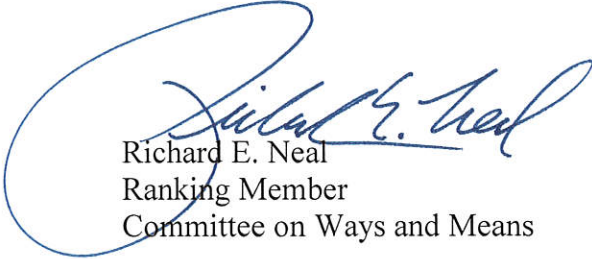
Mr. Kenneth A. Burdick

February 2, 2018


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Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means



Frank Pallone, Jr.
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