

12/30/2016

Dear GIB,

Please excuse the hand-written note and purple pen. I am having trouble getting a cell signal, thus the old-fashioned pen and paper, while sitting in your meeting room.

I am Kathy Oriel, MD, a family physician in Madison, Wis. I have provided medical care and provided hormonal therapy, recommendations for surgery, and general documentation for transgender adults and adolescents for 25 years, the previous 22 years in Madison. I am generally considered an expert in the area of care for transgender persons.

Kudos to you as the board for your May decision, choosing to abide by CMS rule change 1557 to not exclude medical services solely based on gender identity. This care is universally regarded ~~as~~ as medically necessary by all professional medical organizations. Further, I can attest to how truly therapeutic such medical care is for the individuals affected. This was the medically, ethically, and most cost-effective decision you as a board could have made.

I urge you to stay with that decision. Cost-effectiveness analysis in other states with higher risk populations (i.e. Medicaid) show that providing this medically necessary care makes economic sense.

Again - I ~~am~~ applaud your decision in May and urge you to "stay the course." I am glad to be a resource ~~to~~ to the board if it would be at all helpful.

Sincerely,

Kathy Oriel MD MS

Kathy Oriel, MD