

May 25, 2021

Deidre S. Gifford, Commissioner  
Department of Social Services  
55 Farmington Avenue

Hartford, CT 06105

Dear Commissioner Gifford:

I write to urge you to revise the state's current emergency medical condition (EMC) Medicaid position to include coverage for life-sustaining outpatient renal dialysis services for undocumented individuals with end stage renal disease (ESRD). I recently became aware of a patient who has been living at Yale New Haven Hospital since December 2020 following an Emergency Department visit due to an emergent need for renal dialysis caused by the patient's ESRD. I do not believe that she is the only patient in Connecticut in this situation.

The patient is an undocumented person and so would not usually qualify for Medicaid. However, it is my understanding that undocumented persons can receive Medicaid coverage for an Emergency Medical Condition (EMC). Clearly when this patient arrived at the YNHH Emergency Department she was suffering from an EMC and as such qualified for Medicaid coverage for inpatient Dialysis. She continues to qualify for Medicaid coverage for this EMC so long as she remains at YNHH. However, if she leaves YNHH, under DSS's current policy, her need for dialysis would not qualify as an EMC for Medicaid coverage of outpatient treatment. This policy seems not only inhumane but also financially unsound. Allowing Medicaid Coverage for outpatient dialysis would allow this patient to go home and it would also save money for the state. I urge you to make this change as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Martin M. Looney

State Senator, Eleventh District