

Iowa Medicaid Enterprise  
Attn: Pharmacy Services  
100 Army Post Road  
Des Moines, Iowa 50315

Dear Members of the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee:

On behalf of people in Iowa living with cystic fibrosis (CF), we write to support Iowa Medicaid in the inclusion of aztreonam (Cayston<sup>®</sup>) and at least one inhaled tobramycin product on the preferred drug list (PDL).

**About Cystic Fibrosis & the CF Foundation**

Cystic fibrosis is caused by genetic mutations that result in the malfunction of a protein known as the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (*CFTR*). Decreased *CFTR* function causes irreversible damage and the associated symptoms of cystic fibrosis and leads to early death, usually by respiratory failure. As the world's leader in the search for a cure for CF and an organization dedicated to ensuring access to high quality, specialized CF care, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation accredits 123 care centers, including 3 in Iowa, and 55 affiliate programs nationally that provide multidisciplinary, patient-centered care in accordance with systematically reviewed, data-driven clinical practice guidelines. Treatment options for this rare, life-threatening disease are extremely limited.

**About Inhaled Antibiotic Therapies**

Access to inhaled antibiotic therapies used to treat *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in individuals with CF is critical as these treatments serve to manage life-threatening lung infections that contribute to progressive lung function decline that characterizes this disease. Use of CF-specific inhaled antibiotics has been shown to decrease *P. aeruginosa* in sputum and improve lung function and quality of life.<sup>1-3</sup> Therefore, chronic use of inhaled tobramycin or aztreonam (Cayston<sup>®</sup>) is recommended for the treatment of *P. aeruginosa*.<sup>4</sup> Because the type of antibiotic, the dosage, and the length of time to take the drug all vary from person to person – and the fact that some people become resistant to antibiotics over time – it is critical that people with CF have access to aztreonam and at least one inhaled tobramycin product.