AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ADAP)

What is ADAP?
The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is available to HIV-positive people with limited income and assets. Four different programs offered by ADAP are: ADAP, ADAP-Plus, HIV Home Care Program and the APIC (ADAP Plus Insurance Continuation) program. ADAP pays for many HIV prescription drugs. ADAP-Plus pays for doctor visits and labs (like bloodwork). The HIV Home Care Program pays for nurses and home attendants who can assist you if you are homebound. The APIC program pays for private health insurance. A separate GMHC fact sheet describes the APIC program.

What types of coverage does ADAP offer?
ADAP’s prescription drug coverage includes medications that directly fight HIV (antiretrovirals) as well as drugs that fight the various infections that occur in HIV-positive people (such as PCP pneumonia). ADAP also pays for certain pain medicines, medicine that relieves diarrhea, drugs that relieve side effects of HIV medications, and certain psychiatric drugs. If you have a prescription for a nutritional supplement (like vitamins and minerals), ADAP may also pay for it. GMHC’s advocacy unit has a complete list of drugs and supplements that ADAP covers.

If you check the ADAP-Plus box on your application and have no other health insurance, ADAP can pay for visits to medical clinics if they accept ADAP. Always make sure that your medical provider accepts ADAP before you receive services. Visits to primary care physicians and specialists are covered. Lab work or related medical procedures may be covered only if they are part of your clinic visit. ADAP can also pay for mental health therapy (up to 24 visits per year) as well as routine dental care.

ADAP’s Homecare program will pay for skilled nurses, home health aids, homemakers, nutritional counselors, injections, and durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs. There is a $30,000 lifetime limit on homecare services.

What types of medical expenses will ADAP not cover?
It is important for you to know that some important medical services are not covered by ADAP. The biggest of these expenses is in-patient hospitalization. ADAP will also not cover any type of medical bills incurred before the date of ADAP enrollment. Emergency room visits are not covered by ADAP. Many prescription drugs, particularly those not related to your HIV, are also not covered by ADAP. Check the list of covered drugs in the ADAP application. Also not covered are treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction, physical rehabilitation services such as physical therapy and speech therapy, counseling related to HIV testing, and case management.

Where is ADAP accepted?
There are a number of enrolled clinics, hospitals, laboratory providers, private doctor offices, pharmacies, ambulatory care providers as well as home health care agencies who accept ADAP and ADAP Plus throughout New York State.

How do I know if I am eligible for ADAP?
Your eligibility for ADAP depends on your medical and financial status. If you are HIV positive and a medical provider can verify this information, then you meet the medical criteria. If you have a household of one, the gross income limit is $44,000 per year; $59,000 for a household of 2; and $74,400 for three or more. There is a liquid asset limit of $25,000; pre-tax retirement savings will be counted as 50% of the cash value towards this limit.

How do I apply?
Documentation verifying your income (i.e., benefit award letter and/or paystubs), residency (i.e., New York State I.D. or utility bill), assets (i.e., current bank account statements), and health insurance, if applicable (i.e., insurance card) needs to be submitted with the ADAP application. The blue ADAP medical report form needs to be completed by a
physician and sent to ADAP before an application can be approved. The application and documentation can be faxed to ADAP, however, they require the original copy of the medical report in order to activate your coverage.

**What happens when I am approved?**

ADAP will send you written notification and an ADAP card in the mail. Once you have received your ADAP card, you can immediately access coverage and treatment.

**Questions?**

The toll-free ADAP number to call is 1-800-542-2437.

The Client Advocacy Unit at GMHC is available to assist you. For more information, please call our Helpline: 212/367-1125, Wednesdays, 2:00 to 5:30 P.M. Walk-in services are available Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

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