



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 House Office Bldg.  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**Re: HB 447 – Health Insurance – Pediatric Auto-Immune Disorders – Coverage – Letter of Opposition**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the “Department”) is submitting this letter of opposition for HB 447 – Health Insurance – Pediatric Auto-Immune Disorders – Coverage. HB 447 would require the Maryland Department of Health Medical Assistance Program to cover services for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS). Coverage of such services would be subject to the limitations of the State budget and as permitted by federal law. Specifically, HB 447 would also require coverage for the use of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy (IVIG) for eligible Program participants.

The Medical Assistance Program provides coverage for medically necessary services, including treatment of PANDAS and PANS. However, pursuant to COMAR 10.09.03.05A(6), the Program does not cover experimental treatments. At this time, IVIG has not been approved as a treatment for PANDAS/PANS by the FDA and is considered an experimental therapy. Clinical trials for IVIG are underway at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs Webster Ye at (410) 260-3190 or [webster.ye@maryland.gov](mailto:webster.ye@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall  
Secretary