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August 5, 2013

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Diana S. Dooley, Board Chair  
Covered California  
560 J Street, Suite 290  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### RE: Diagnosis and Treatment of Tuberculosis and Covered California

Dear Secretary Dooley:

On January 18, 2013, the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) sent a letter to you with a strong recommendation that services for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis (TB) infection and disease should be included in the preventive care services for Californians participating in a Covered California health plan. We have attached the original January 18, 2013 letter for your review.

We respectfully request written verification of the services for the diagnosis and treatment of TB disease and TB infection that will be included in the Covered California health plans. The services in question include:

- Diagnostics including tuberculin skin tests and interferon gamma release assays, blood work, radiological imaging, and microbiological testing
- Medical visits in the outpatient, emergency, and inpatient settings during evaluation and treatment for TB
- Drugs to treat TB, drug resistant TB, and to treat the adverse effects that can be caused by anti-TB treatment

Our direct inquiries with selected health plans and review of the TB services covered in the health plans that will be participating in Covered California have not been able to confirm coverage for TB services without cost sharing. TB is a crucial public safety concern in California where over 20% of the nation's TB cases occur annually, and access to TB diagnosis and treatment is essential to prevent a costly resurgence of TB.

Currently the TB Medi-Cal Program provides coverage without cost for TB diagnosis and treatment services. We urge Covered California to avoid a disparity in access to TB services between the TB Medi-Cal Program and Covered California health plans.

TB is an equal opportunity disease because it is spread through the air. Early and effective diagnosis and treatment saves lives. In the last year, the American Medical Association, National Tuberculosis Controllers Association, Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis, and the American Thoracic Association have endorsed the provision of services to diagnose and treat TB without cost sharing.

As you know, CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local

Diana S. Dooley, Board Chair  
Page 2  
August 5, 2013

agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

For more information about TB in California, please contact Mike Carson, President of the California Tuberculosis Controllers Association at [mcarson@ctca.org](mailto:mcarson@ctca.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Muntu Davis', followed by the text 'MD, MPH'.

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH  
President-Elect, California Conference of Local Health Officers

cc: Peter Lee, Executive Director, Covered California  
Ron Chapman, MD, MPH, Director, California Department of Public Health