

**SAN FRANCISCO  
HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM**

Affordable, Quality Benefits & Well-Being

March 14, 2017

Erica Major, Assistant Clerk  
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee  
Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Re: HIV-Related Lipodystrophy Syndrome Medical Treatment Offered At Health Service System

Dear Supervisor Sheehy and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I write on behalf of the San Francisco Health Service System (SFHSS), which provides health insurance coverage for the 117,000 plus members, dependents, and retirees of the City and County of San Francisco, California, the San Francisco Unified School District, the San Francisco Community College District and the Superior Court of California - County of San Francisco.

On January 31, 2017, Supervisor Sheehy introduced a Resolution (File No. 170134) calling on both the Department of Public Health and the San Francisco Health Service System to provide access to treatment and coverage for HIV-related lipodystrophy syndrome. The Resolution contained the following clause: "WHEREAS, Healthy San Francisco and the San Francisco Health Service System do not cover, or provide access to treatment, for HIV related lipodystrophy;"

Presently, SFHSS provides access to treatment and coverage for this syndrome to both its members and its retirees in the three medical plans that it offers its members.

We offer health insurance plans to members through three plans: Kaiser Permanente, Blue Shield of California, and United Healthcare (UHC). Kaiser and Blue Shield of California cover medically necessary drug and medical treatments for lipodystrophy. UHC covers reasonable and necessary treatment of lipodystrophy associated with HIV/AIDS when Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved dermal injections are used.

Accordingly, I urge you to remove the Health Service System from this Resolution.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to provide additional information if needed.

Sincerely,



Catherine J. Dodd RN, PhD  
Director, San Francisco Health Service System

Cc: Jeff Sheehy, Board of Supervisors  
Barbara Garcia, Director, Department of Public Health