



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amida Care Affirms the Continued Need for Access to Telehealth Services

(New York, NY—June 25, 2021) Amida Care, New York’s largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan designed for people affected by HIV, released the following statement from President and CEO Doug Wirth in response to recent news that waivers expanding access to [telehealth services could expire](#) along with New York State’s disaster emergency designation that expired on June 24:

“Governor Cuomo has announced that New York’s disaster emergency designation will expire this week—and along with it, waivers expanding access to telehealth services may expire as well.

In light of this news, Amida Care affirms the continued need for access to telehealth services in New York, especially among people who rely on telehealth for connection to HIV, sexual health, and behavioral health services. From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth has proven to be an effective, patient-friendly way to provide health care. Data also demonstrates that access to telehealth results in fewer no-shows for appointments, which increases the efficiency of providers.

At Amida Care, telehealth is a critical tool in maintaining our momentum in ending the HIV epidemic. In particular, telehealth has provided support to help people who are HIV negative with accessing highly effective HIV prevention tools like pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Telehealth offers our providers the opportunity to lower the communication barrier between members and providers by not requiring in-person visits to manage certain aspects of sexual health care. Health plans should support the expansion of telehealth services to increase PrEP utilization among their members, with follow-up services built in. We urge the State to act and set adequate reimbursement rates so that New Yorkers in need can continue to access telehealth services.”

About Amida Care

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders; and people who are of transgender experience or who are homeless, regardless of HIV status. Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.