For Immediate Release
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Amida Care Applauds Federal Ruling Paving the Way for Safer Consumption Spaces

(New York, October 8, 2019) - Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, issued the following statement following last week's ruling from U.S. District Judge Gerald A. McHugh stating that Philadelphia's proposed Safehouse safer consumption space does not violate U.S. law:

"Amida Care is excited that the nation's first safer consumption space is one step closer to becoming reality after Judge McHugh's landmark decision on October 4. Safer consumption spaces are sites where people who use drugs can do so in a medically supervised setting with linkages to a host of support services. These spaces are proven to reduce the amount and frequency that clients use drugs, help protect people from overdose, increase the delivery of medical and social services, and reduce behaviors such as syringe sharing, which increases the likelihood of HIV and Hepatitis C diagnoses. The U.S. is way behind other countries when it comes to adopting proven harm reduction techniques such as these. With Philadelphia leading the way, we're hopeful that New York will soon follow and make safer consumption spaces a reality in New York to help end the overdose crisis, prevent HIV and viral hepatitis transmission, and save lives."

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 chronic 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.