



Eating Disorders Coalition Submits 21st Century Cures 2.0 Comments

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 17, 2020) – On July 1, the Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) submitted comments to the offices of Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI) in response to their 21st Century Cures 2.0 concept paper. This document represents the next iteration of advancing medical research and facilitating a new era of medical innovation by building off the successes of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255), which included the Anna Westin Act provisions. The Cures 2.0 concept paper posits several policy solutions regarding pandemic response, data collection, drug approval processes, insurance coverage modernization, and more. The EDC focused on two areas within the concept paper: (1) Caregiver Integration and (2) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Modernization. A copy of the comment submission can be read [here](#).

Caregivers for loved ones affected by eating disorders engage in six weeks of unpaid caregiving each year. Without the provision of necessary resources, caregivers are unable to provide effective support, and recovery of the affected individual may be protracted. The EDC encouraged the development of resources for affected individuals to provide to caregivers, including information on Emotion-Focused Family Therapy, individual therapy, and family-based therapy.

With regard to CMS modernization, Medicare needs to fill coverage gaps within their insurance program, specifically covering residential and intensive outpatient levels of care for eating disorders. Further, Medicare does not cover outpatient medical nutrition therapy for eating disorders, which poses a significant barrier for Americans to access comprehensive treatment for their mental illness. The EDC strongly urged the patchwork coverage for eating disorders under Medicare be mended within the 21st Century Cures 2.0 legislation.

The EDC is thankful to the leaders of the concept paper for their commitment to improving health care in the United States, and will remain vigilant for opportunities to work together to build a legislative package that supports individuals, families, and loved ones with eating disorders.

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a Washington, DC-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can also be found at eatingdisorderscoalition.org.

###

Media Contact: Luke Kopetsky: lkopetsky@eatingdisorderscoalition.org