May 14, 2020

The Honorable Deborah Birx, MD
Coronavirus Task Force Response Coordinator
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ambassador Birx:

We are writing on behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) to thank you for your leadership in overseeing the distribution of the limited supply of remdesivir donated by Gilead Sciences available under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's emergency use authorization (EUA).

IDSA and HIVMA support the new strategy to distribute the drug through state health departments, which are better positioned to assess where it is most needed within their state. However, we also urge attention to regional availability to avoid patient surges across state lines. We are writing because we and many of our members are concerned about continuing uncertainties about how remdesivir will be distributed which are substantially hampering our ability to care for patients with COVID-19.

As states and hospitals manage their COVID-19 responses in the coming months it will be important for them to be able to predict available supplies of critical resources, including remdesivir to treat patients with severe COVID-19. To inform this planning, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss questions regarding the distribution of the drug, including:

1) What guidance and information are being given to states as they receive their allotments?
2) What data are being used to determine how to distribute the drug?
3) Where will real-time data be publicly posted regarding the distributions to states?
4) What data will be collected on how the drug was distributed within states to ensure it is reaching Black Americans, Latinx communities and other populations experiencing the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19? And whether the drug is being received in adequate amounts by safety-net hospitals?
5) When will data from the Adaptive COVID-19 Treatment Trial (ACTT) be publicly available to inform the prioritization of patients to receive the limited supply of remdesivir?

We appreciated the administration's response to the concerns that we and other medical providers raised following the initial distribution of remdesivir under the EUA and thank you for considering our request to meet to discuss the issue. We can be contacted through Amanda Jezek, IDSA Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Government Relations at ajezek@idsociety.org, or Andrea Weddle, HIVMA Executive Director at aweddle@hivma.org.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. File, Jr., MD, MSc
President, IDSA

Judith Feinberg, MD, FIDSA
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