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MEN'S HEALTH NETWORK SUPPORTS MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION TREATMENT

WASHINGTON, DC – May 26, 2005 – In the wake of a recent report that sex offenders in Texas have received Viagra and other sex-enhancing drugs in the taxpayer-funded Medicaid program, MHN wants to reinforce the value of this treatment in sustaining healthy families and spousal relationships. States like Texas, New York, and Florida should ensure that ED treatments are denied to known sexual offenders, but not deny this treatment to the various male Medicaid populations who need it the most.

The effect of ED on men if untreated, is disastrous, often leading to social disorders such as stress, anxiety, guilt, depression, and low self-esteem. ED is not just a men's health issue because it also effects female partners. ED is a women's health issue because ED can lead to depression and other serious medical conditions in men and their female partners, this treatable condition can lead to dismantling of the family, which is not in the best interest of our society's children.

It is the Men's Health Network's strongest opinion that ED treatments have significant value in sustaining strong and healthy relationships for men and their families. As ED is debated in the public policy arena, we urge state policy makers to remember that ED afflicts men of all walks of life and that effective treatment is critical to the health and well-being of them and their loved ones. Medicaid reimbursement for effective treatments for ED will improve the quality of health of families nationwide.

Men's Health Network is a non-profit educational organization comprised of physicians, researchers, public health workers, individuals and other health professionals. MHN is committed to improving the health and wellness of men through education campaigns, data collection and work with health care providers to provide better programs and funding on men's health needs. MHN has an experienced professional speakers bureau available on every men's health topic, including; prostate cancer, young adult male health, African-American men's health, Hispanic health and the role of women in men's health.