Subject: Vasectomy Coverage under the Affordable Care Act

November 12, 2015

Dear Secretary Burwell,

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandates insurance coverage, with no cost-sharing, for certain medical services, including “all Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptive methods, sterilization procedures, and patient education and counseling for all women with reproductive capacity.” Vasectomy is not currently included among “all sterilization procedures” as it is not performed on women. We respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) support cost-free coverage for male sterilization (vasectomy) and male contraceptive counseling under the essential health benefits defined for all insurance providers, including Medicaid and support an amendment of the list of preventive services defined by HHS to include male sterilization and male contraception counseling.

We are not alone in our support for equitable contraceptive coverage. At the June 2015 American Medical Association House of Delegates meeting, the house of medicine passed policy H-185.932 “Support for Inclusion of Vasectomy in the ACA Preventive Services and Contraceptive Mandate.” That policy, representing the agreement of hundreds of national and state medical societies, directed the AMA to advocate for patient access to the full continuum of evidence-based contraceptive methods and sterilization procedures, including vasectomy and male contraceptive counseling, to promote gender equity in contraceptive services under the ACA.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and assistance in this matter. If you have any comments on our request, please contact Kathleen Zwarick, PhD, CAE at the American Urological Association at (410) 689-3703 or kzwarick@auanet.org.

Sincerely,

American Urological Association
American Society for Men’s Health
Sexual Medicine Society of North America
Society for Study of Male Reproduction