Division of
Health Care
Finance & Administration

September ___, 2015

Addressee Name
Company Name
First Address Line
Second Address Line
City, State Zipcode

Dear Name:

We want to make you aware of a training opportunity that can help you provide better care for your patients with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) as well as provide **free Continuing Medical Education (C.M.E.) credits.**

The title of the training is:

APPROPRIATE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH IDD:
HELPING INDIVIDUALS GET THE BEST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE.

The training can be accessed and completed online at:
https://cme.mc.vanderbilt.edu/content/appropriate-use-psychotropic-medications-people-idd-helping-individuals-get-best-behavioral

The training program is the result of a partnership between TennCare, the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. It builds on a body of scientific evidence and a set of tools developed specifically to support primary care providers who treat individuals with I/DD. The broader toolkit is available at: www.iddtoolkit.org or http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/etoolkit/.

This training is designed to help educate physicians and other prescribers about the appropriate use of psychotropic medications for individuals with I/DD—equipping you to better understand and accurately diagnose underlying mental health conditions in individuals with I/DD, look for and try non-pharmacologic interventions that may better address problem behaviors, and when psychotropic medications are appropriate, help to ensure they are prescribed in a manner that is safe for the person and closely monitored. The training is aligned with the new TennCare prior authorization process for psychotropic medications prescribed for individuals with I/DD that will be implemented later this year. Completion of the training program is one of the activities that can be documented to permit authorization for psychotropic medications when a co-occurring mental health diagnosis is not on file.

The training program has been designed to accommodate the busy schedules of practicing professionals by offering roughly 90 minutes of training in eight 10-15 minute modules, each of which can be completed independently as your schedule permits. A short competency-based test at the start and end of each module helps to ensure understanding and retention of key concepts. Satisfactory completion of all modules, including competency checks, is required in order to receive

the free C.M.E credits for the training (1.5 hours AAFP, 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits for physicians and advanced practice nurses with prescription authority, and 1.5 APA CE credits).

A similar program has also been developed for individuals with I/DD, family members and conservators that will help them understand the appropriate use of psychotropic medications in lay terms. Most importantly, it will equip them to ask questions and gather and provide information to you, the treating professional, about the person's conditions and behaviors—when they occur, why they occur—that will help you better identify the most appropriate course of treatment, including interventions other than medications when possible. We encourage you to make your patients with I/DD and their families aware of this training resource. The training for individuals with I/DD and family members is available at: vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/healthtraining

We hope you will take advantage of this training opportunity and that you find it helpful in providing the best possible care to individuals with I/DD.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Frigon, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Tennessee Health Care Finance and Administration
Bureau of TennCare