



April 14, 2020

To: ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

CDDP and Brokerage directors: Please share this message with individuals and families

I want to share some important guidance released by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

OHA recently released [treatment guidance](#) related to non-discrimination in medical treatment for COVID-19. Specifically, the guidance reminds all of Oregon's health care providers, facilities, and insurers that it is illegal to ration care based on a person's disability status, under both federal and state law.

The guidance also points out that "Care decisions should not be based on non-clinical factors such as race, ethnicity, clinician-perceived quality of life, profession, social position, or ability to pay. As an example, stable patients who use a ventilator on a long-term basis would not lose access to their ventilators as a consequence of implementing crisis care."

This is importance guidance to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are given the same access to health care during this time. People with I/DD face a long history of discrimination and I appreciate the work self-advocates, Oregon's protection and advocacy agency, and others have taken to bring this issue to the forefront during these challenging times.

The best way to stay safe is to stay home right now. While you are home, you can make a plan for what may happen if someone in your home needs to go to the hospital.

If anyone feels they are not receiving adequate care based on their disability, please reach out Bureau of Labor and Industries, Civil Rights Division: <https://www.oregon.gov/boli/CRD/pages/index.aspx> Phone: 971-673-0764. Individuals can also reach out to their Services Coordinator or Personal Agent.

Thank you for all you are doing to ensure health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

This message is available in Spanish, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese and Vietnamese on the [ODDS Covid-19 web page](#).

Previous Director's Messages are available at
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>

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You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Oregon Office of Developmental Disabilities Services at 503-945-5811. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.