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To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to share my experience with the prevalence of individuals with cystic fibrosis having substance abuse problems as well as some of the difficulties in referring them to treatment. I am the social worker for the Johns Hopkins Adult Cystic Fibrosis program and we follow approximately 350 patients.

In an average year, approximately ten percent of our patient population requires intervention to address their abuse of drugs and/or alcohol. There are likely a higher number of patients that are abusing substances but it goes unreported.

We have had several patients require inpatient substance abuse treatment however, we have had some difficulty with treatment centers not accepting patients into treatment because they feel unable to meet the medical needs of someone with cystic fibrosis.

A substance abuse program that understands the needs of CF patients would be highly beneficial to our patient population.

Sincerely,

Megan Lagergren, LCSW-C
Johns Hopkins Hospital