

Pro Pharma Pharmaceutical Consultants, Inc. presents the following information to keep you apprised of updates in the industry. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance to you by contacting us at: (888)701-5438 or email to Dr. Craig Stern or via our website at www.propharmaconsultants.com.



Pharmacy Benefit News

From Pro Pharma

Email
Dr. Stern



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Walgreens vs. CVS/Caremark

Walgreens announced that it will not participate in any new and renewed CVS Caremark pharmacy network plans. Walgreen's argument is based on revenues, the same arguments used in the FTC investigation of CVS/CMX, and the concern that CMX is steering patients to CVS pharmacies. CVS/CMX has also removed Walgreens from all non-Medicare Part D plans as of the beginning of July.

COMMENT: Clearly, CVS pharmacies will benefit from the new business from Walgreens pharmacies. Also, CMX is subject to other PBMs trying to cannibalize its business. For plans, the problem is one of access and options. In some plans the patients may pay for the Walgreens Rx and submit a paper claim to CMX. For other plans, Walgreens Rx will be denied. The result of this exchange should be interesting, but not fun.

'Donut Hole' Checks Hit the Mail June 10

Most Medicare Part D plan beneficiaries whose income is too high to qualify for the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) program, but who enter the donut hole in 2010, will receive a one-time, tax-free rebate check of \$250 to help out with high prescription drug costs, under the new health care reform law.

The checks began to be mailed on June 10 and will be sent to beneficiaries soon after they enter the coverage gap. More information on the rebate checks is available by downloading the pdf at <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11464.pdf>

Another Part D change under the law will let more beneficiaries qualify for the LIS program, and be eligible to pay no more than \$2.50 for generic drugs and \$6.30 for each brand name drug. There is no cost to apply for the LIS or "Extra Help" program. Medicare beneficiaries, family members, trusted counselors, or caregivers can apply online or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.

COMMENT: The above url and contacts may be helpful for your internal use and that of your beneficiaries.

Aerobid Back Order Issue

Forest Pharmaceuticals announced that Aerobid will be on back order. We suspect that this condition will continue as we approach June 30, 2011-- the date Forest must stop selling chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) Aerobid. They are probably forcing the depletion of old stock while phasing in the new hydrofluoroalkane (HFA) version. In the future, we suspect that we will see the same condition for other inhaler products such as: Tilade, Alupent, Azmacort, Intal, Combivent, and Maxair. CFCs are scheduled for last day of sale from June 2010 to Dec 2013

COMMENT: We suggest that plans affected by the CFC phase-out/HFA phase-in inventory issue examine their formularies and offer plan members suitable alternatives. In addition, plan administrators should be prepared for price increases in this category and adjust budgets accordingly as well as prepare for future contract increases.

Meet the Professor

Craig Stern, PharmD, MBA President,
Pro Pharma Pharmaceutical Consultants, Inc

Set your browser to

<http://www.propharmaconsultants.blogspot.com/>

We discuss changes in AWP, pharmacy practice, market trends, etc.

Ask questions...

Discuss areas of interest regarding medications, pharmacy benefits, clinical pharmacology, etc.

Check often for new postings!

For information contact Carol Stern at: (818)701-5438 or via email at: carol.stern@propharmaconsultants.com

Pro Pharma Pharmaceutical Consultants, Inc. has assisted Payers and Providers for over 24 years to Maintain Quality while Controlling Costs.

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