



Protect your access to safe and affordable medicine

November - December 2011

Are You Enrolled in a Medicare Part D Preferred Network Plan?

Are you a Medicare Part D beneficiary? If so, you may have noticed an increase this year in the number of preferred network plans offered. These are plans that promise low co-payments for patients, but in the fine print only provides that low cost at preferred pharmacies. Effective January 1, for 2012, there are six preferred plans: Humana-Walmart Preferred Rx Plan, AARP Medicare Rx Preferred, CVS Caremark Plus, First Health Part D Value Plus, Aetna CVS/Pharmacy Prescription Drug Plan, and Rite Aid Envision Rx Plus.

If you have concerns about your coverage and/or experience one or more of the following after your plan takes effect on January 1, please call The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at 1-800-MEDICARE and let them know if:

- You weren't aware the prices advertised on Medicare's Plan Finder and/or the drug plan's Web site are only available at a specific pharmacy (or pharmacies)
- You receive telephone calls asking you to switch pharmacies.
- You receive medications through the mail without ordering them because your pharmacy was changed without your approval.

The aforementioned items should raise concerns for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and they take consumer complaints about offered plans seriously. Therefore, please call 1-800-MEDICARE and let them know about any problems you encounter.

Please Urge Your State Attorney General to Investigate the ESI-Medco Merger

In recent weeks, more elected officials have raised serious questions on the proposed merger between PBM giants Express Scripts and Medco and how the merger would impact consumers and their choice in pharmacy. Additionally, 28 state attorneys general are actively scrutinizing the merger and its impact on consumers, health plan sponsors, and pharmacy providers. Please call your state attorney general and urge them to thoroughly investigate the proposed merger and ensure as a consumer you do not lose access to the pharmacy of your choice as a result.

Join five leading [consumer groups](#) who made their concerns known that the merger would negatively impact patient access to pharmacy and could delay certain medications from coming to market. Please visit the [National Association of Attorneys General](#) website for contact information for your state attorney general.

This publication is a grassroots news update designed to provide information on the changing health care market, and how your community pharmacy plays a key role. We welcome your comments at grassroots@ncpanet.org. Anyone can sign up to receive this newsletter directly to your inbox. Simply sign up online at www.fight4rx.org or email grassroots@ncpanet.org.