



Pharmacy Benefits Management – National CooperativeRx and CVS/caremark

The Health Care Cost Management Corporation of Alaska, Inc. (HCCMCA) provides member health plans with pharmacy benefit management (PBM) services through a not-for-profit, member-owned purchasing coalition, National CooperativeRx. The agreement gives HCCMCA member plans access to negotiated large group discounts through CVS/caremark, an industry leader chosen by National CooperativeRx via a competitive bid process.

HCCMCA works closely with National CooperativeRx and CVS/caremark to offer significant savings on prescription drugs to HCCMCA member plan participants and their dependents.

Goals

HCCMCA's PBM program goals are to:

- Offer HCCMCA member plans volume discounts and cost containment solutions
- Deliver responsive customer service
- Provide access to a comprehensive and easy to access pharmacy network
- Protect member plans by maintaining oversight of the PBM through regular, independent claims audits and aggressive contract language
- Provide independent, objective clinical and pharmacy benefits expertise

How it Works

HCCMCA's contract with National CooperativeRx means member plans benefit from the purchasing clout of a 250,000 member purchasing cooperative. National CooperativeRx audits claims to guarantee accountability and regularly rebids and renegotiates the PBM contract to ensure best in class pricing and services to members.

This PBM arrangement results in more than improved pricing; it promotes long term cost containment through customizable clinical programs designed to promote wellness and adherence. Web site tools help participants manage their prescriptions, interactions and substitutions, and a mail order option gives participants an affordable way to receive home delivery of maintenance medicines.

Benefits

HCCMCA's PBM contract through National CooperativeRx benefits member health plans in additional ways:

Competitive costs: HCCMCA and National CooperativeRx use aggregated pricing, with identical rates for all states and regions. This gives member plans the most aggressive prescription drug pricing possible.

Aggressive pricing: The average drug cost claim (employer and employee shares) for the HCCMCA member health plans only increased by 5.6% in 2015 due to smart plan design and preemptive clinical programs implemented in partnership with National CooperativeRx. The average increase for all employer-insured business with CVS/caremark was 8.6%..

Expertise: National CooperativeRx hires consultants, attorneys specializing in PBM contracting, auditors and others to manage the contract and obtain maximum value for participating plans.

Value-added programs: The National CooperativeRx contract gives participating plans access to no-cost programs designed to enhance prescription compliance, encourage generic utilization and control prescription costs. In addition, it funds numerous clinical programs where all savings accrue to the HCCMCA member plan.

Affordability: The employer pays a nominal membership fee per participant, a portion of which goes to National CooperativeRx and a portion to HCCMCA.

Member-Ownership: As a not-for-profit cooperative, National CooperativeRx returns any net earnings to its members through a patronage dividend. In addition, HCCMCA maintains a representation on the coalition governance board.

"One of the fastest growing cost areas for health plans is prescription drug benefits. The HCCMCA, through its agreement with National CooperativeRx, offers members greater purchasing discounts, enhanced customer service levels, increased transparency and support for navigating PBM issues. Instead of being 'a little fish in a big PBM pond,' we're swimming with the bigger fish with HCCMCA. That's good for members, Rx users and Alaska taxpayers."

Robin Mullins

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Learn More

To learn more about PBM services, contact HCCMCA at (907) 474-4226 or (888) 474-4226 (toll-free).

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