

Specialty Mail Order Pharmacy in Medicaid Managed Care

The enacted SFY 2013-14 budget includes a new provision (Section 12 of Part A of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2013) that affects Medicaid Managed Care/Family Health Plus/HIV SNP Plans' Specialty Pharmacy Programs. Effective 4/1/2013, this new provision enables members, at their option, to obtain mail order specialty drugs at any retail network pharmacy. Medicaid Managed Care Plans have processes in place to allow their members to use any network pharmacy if that pharmacy agrees to accept a price comparable to the mail order specialty pharmacy price.

This means that if a member or provider acting on behalf of a member contacts the Managed Care Plan and requests to obtain mail order specialty medication(s) through a network retail pharmacy, and the network retail pharmacy agrees to a price that is comparable to the mail order specialty pharmacy price, the Managed Care Plan must allow the member to use the network retail pharmacy.

Managed Care plans are currently evaluating how this statutory change affects contracts with their Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and/or their pharmacy network and will communicate any changes directly to their network pharmacies. Plans will also be responsible for notifying members and updating their web sites.