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Elevate Provider Network Weekly Update

Promoting the value of independent pharmacy patient care

Other PSAOs abandon preferred pharmacy networks

Adam J. Fein, Ph.D., Drug Channels, January 23, 2024

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Six years ago, Elevate Provider Network pioneered a bold contracting strategy to save our pharmacies hundreds of thousands of dollars in margin. Until very recently, Elevate Provider Network stood alone in our approach to contracting that insisted on both the financial viability of our members, as well as patient access. We are pleased to see that our contracting strategy is now the industry norm, and we urge all PSAOs and their members to join Elevate Provider Network in advocating to help protect and preserve all vital independent pharmacies and the care they provide to communities that depend upon them across the U.S. See more below under Advocacy.

Drug Channels' recently updated its exclusive analysis of how smaller pharmacies will participate as preferred cost sharing pharmacies via the pharmacy services administrative organizations (PSAOs) that represent them in negotiations with plans. As you will see below, the largest PSAOs have effectively abandoned PDP's preferred networks in 2024.

[Read more](#)

Advocacy

Tremendous response to grassroots call to action

Thank you to everyone who engaged in the recent call to action by Elevate Provider Network and NCPA! NCPA's Legislative Action Center had an overwhelming response

which resulted in thousands of messages sent to Congress in just a week—setting an NCPA record for outreach in that period. Since our call to action, Congress passed a continuing resolution that would fund the government into March and allow appropriations negotiators additional time to agree on funding and policy matters for the individual agencies. You can still participate!

[Visit the NCPA Legislative Action Center](#)

Grassley, Cantwell lead renewed PBM accountability push

Senator Chuck Grassley, January 23, 2024

Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) are leading 12 of their colleagues in urging the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to complete its investigation into the health care industry's most powerful prescription drug middlemen. The bipartisan senators are also requesting a status update on the investigation, which has now been open for over 18 months.

“We support the [FTC’s] issuance of a Section 6(b) order and conducting a timely study of pharmacy benefits managers’ (PBM) business practices,” the senators wrote in their letter to FTC Chair Lina Khan. “With the FTC’s inquiry reaching its year-and-a-half mark, we urge the FTC to complete the study without delay. In the interim, we believe it is important to know the status of the study and therefore ask the FTC to issue a progress report.”

[Visit the NCPA Legislative Action Center](#)

[Read more](#)

CMS offers new way to reach out and log complaints

NCPA, January 16, 2024

CMS has a dedicated Part D Monitoring inbox at partd_monitoring@cms.hhs.gov where you should share pharmacy access issues, issues with patient harm and confusion, or issues with patient steering. Topics should be limited to these access issues. Financial claim information should NOT be sent to this inbox.

[Read more](#)

New podcast: DIR reform’s effects

NCPA, January 23, 2024

NCPA is preparing right now to measure the impact of DIR reform so we can educate federal policymakers. We're anticipating that reductions in prescription reimbursements at the point of sale, plus the DIR lag from 2023, plus the inflationary impact on the cost to dispense will be challenging. NCPA is gearing up to push CMS for relief. On the other hand, the effects could be milder, which is certainly our hope — and we'll continue to find ways to support independent pharmacists in the bigger fights brewing for 2024.

[Visit the NCPA Legislative Action Center](#)

[Listen now](#)

RSV hospitalization risk higher than flu, Omicron among children

Lois Levine, January 22, 2024, Drug Topics

According to a recent study of 2596 pediatric patients in Sweden, more children who contract respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are hospitalized compared to those with influenza or the Omicron infection.

[Read more](#)

ACIP releases updates on vaccine recommendations, 2024 adult immunization schedule

Kennedy Ferruggia, January 22, 2024, Pharmacy Times

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has published the 2024 recommended adult immunization schedule that includes the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, the mpox vaccine, an updated version of the COVID-19 vaccine, and a new MenACWY-MenB combination vaccine. The updates were published in Annals of Internal Medicine and in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

[Read more](#)

Pharmacists are transforming and optimizing HIV treatment

Rajeev Shah, January 22, 2024, Pharmacy Times

The HIV pharmacist serves as the medication expert on the multi-disciplinary HIV treatment team. They may practice in a variety of settings like ambulatory care clinics, specialty pharmacies, or retail pharmacies. In general, their scope of practice includes patient counseling, improving medication adherence, resolving medication access issues, and optimizing treatment. To achieve the goal of HIV-related morbidity and mortality, antiretroviral therapy (ART) is used to suppress the HIV plasma viral load to an undetectable level (viral suppression).¹ In order to achieve viral suppression, contemporary ART regimens typically require 3 medications, but in some cases, 2-drug regimens may be used.

[Read more](#)

Webinar: The ABCs of BOPs and PBMs – A comprehensive guide for pharmacies

In the complex world of pharmacy operations, understanding the interplay between state Boards of Pharmacy (BOPs) and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) is essential. Join Frier Levitt partners Harini Bupathi and Lucas Morgan for a live webinar on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, from 1:00-2:00 PM ET, to delve into this vital relationship and its implications for pharmacy practices.

This session is crucial for all licensees, including pharmacists, pharmacy owners, pharmacy managers, and technicians, as well as pharmacy consultants, and will offer insights into the nuances of BOP and PBM interactions.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
1:00-2:00 PM ET

[Register here](#)

Boost medication adherence rates with the Insite Suspect Claims Report

With 30 minutes a week you can improve your Star Ratings performance by identifying patient outliers in the Star Measure report available in the Insite Suspect Claims report. This report is available weekly in your AB Solutions Portal under the Insite tab and displays the previous week's claims, allowing you to identify nonadherent patients.

Utilize the Star Measure Report to identify and prioritize patient outlier opportunities.

- Prioritize patients needing fewer fills to meet 80% adherence threshold.

- Identify patients with lower adherence rates and more complex adherence needs.
- Focus on patients specific to Star Ratings measure where performance improvement is needed.
- Identify patients enrolled in plan providing performance earn back dollars.

If you need assistance with your Insite Reports, please contact the Elevate Help Desk elevate@amerisourcebergen.com or 1-888-880-1388. *Good Neighbor Pharmacy* Premier pharmacies can utilize their Business Coach to provide guidance, goals, action plans and accountability as you improve your Star Ratings PDC Measure performance.

[Access the AB Solutions Portal](#)

Elevate Provider Network Outcomes opportunities

Outcomes opportunities:

Below are current MTM revenue opportunities available to Elevate Provider Network pharmacies through the Outcomes platform as of January 24, 2024:

Total Outcomes CMR opportunities as of 01/24/24: **33,618**

Potential revenue for the following CMRs: **\$2,025,245**

Additional information regarding Outcomes opportunities can be found on the [Outcomes](#) website.

Contracts

Contracts Received

- Capital Rx - Amendment to the PNA (Re-contract) - Received 1/19/24
- PDMI - Network Amendment for Astellas Xtandi Voucher Program - Received 1/23/24

Top MAC cases

Each week the Elevate MAC Team analyzes millions of InSite claims, identifying which ones will represent the highest potential financial impact to our members. Although a

representative claim might be submitted on behalf of a single Elevate Provider Network pharmacy, the impact may be seen by all our members.

Product Name	NDC	Effective Date	Group	Payer
CLONAZEPAM 1 MG DIS TABLET	49884030902	01/10/2024	CSGMDPDPV	Optum Rx
DROXIDOPA 300 MG CAPSULE	31722001090	01/10/2024	UAWM	Optum Rx
ISRADIPINE 2.5 MG CAPSULE	64850091001	01/10/2024	PDPIND	Optum Rx
LIDOCAINE 5% OINTMENT	33342040530	01/3/2024	PURPRNCEM	Catamaran
MEMANTINE HCL 2 MG/ML SOLUTION	60505616205	01/10/2024	PDPIND	Optum Rx
METHENAMINE HIPP 1 GM TABLET	50742014201	01/8/2024	126ANH008	Maxor Plus
MUPIROCIN 2% CREAM	51672137002	01/9/2024	CSGMDPDPV	Optum Rx
NEBIVOLOL 10 MG TABLET	62559027730	01/10/2024	MDCMEDD	Catamaran
NITROFURANTOIN 25 MG/5 ML SUSP	59651020623	01/4/2024	MPDCSP	Optum Rx
OXICONAZOLE NITRATE 1% CREAM	51672135903	01/10/2024	PDPIND	Optum Rx

Have trouble viewing this table? [View in your browser.](#)

Visit the MAC Action Center in the Solutions Portal for a complete list of all MAC Cases with favorable outcomes.

Elevate Provider Network

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Advocacy: <https://www.wearegnp.com/advocacy>

Outcomes: (515) 237-0001 or www.outcomes.com

Expo Rx Prescription Savings Card: www.wearegnp.com/expo-rx-prescription-savings-card

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