



October 20, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

ATTENTION: Health Legislative Aide
Constituent Service Aide

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Express Scripts administers the pharmacy benefit for many health plans participating in the Medicare Part D program, and for the Department of Defense through their TRICARE program. As the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) for these important clients, our mission is to make prescription drugs safer and more affordable for millions of Americans. We are able to do this through careful plan design and by negotiating with retail pharmacies to offer patients convenient access to their prescription medications at a reasonable price.

I am writing to make you aware of a change to the Express Scripts pharmacy network that may impact some of your constituents in the coming months. As you may know from recent media reports, Walgreens ended its contract renewal negotiations with Express Scripts and notified us of its intent to stop participating in our pharmacy network as of January 1, 2012. Express Scripts is not pleased with this outcome, and had hoped Walgreens would continue to be a participating provider in our network. However, factoring in inflation and the wave of generic drugs, Walgreens' proposal would increase prescription drug prices as much as 20% above other pharmacies in our network over the next three years. These high rates would create an additional cost burden for taxpayers totaling hundreds of millions of dollars, primarily due to higher costs for Medicare Part D plans. Medicaid programs, the Department of Defense and others would experience comparable increases. In today's economy, with most patients stretching every dollar, and with our government straining at the continuing increase in health care expenses, we simply cannot ask our clients or taxpayers to absorb such increased costs.

Express Scripts is working diligently to ensure that every patient continues to have access to convenient pharmacy services when our contract with Walgreens expires on December 31, 2011. We are educating our members about the value of moving to home delivery as well as the many other retail pharmacies currently in our network, including national chains, supermarkets and local independents, all eager to provide prescription drug services. Our customer service representatives are available to help members find a convenient pharmacy alternative to Walgreens and assist with the prescription transfer process.

Regardless of Walgreens' unwillingness to participate in our pharmacy network at less than a premium price, we are pleased to tell you the Express Scripts network offers many other convenient pharmacy choices. When our contract with Walgreens expires, we will still have more than 56,000 pharmacies in our network, including chains and supermarkets such as CVS, Rite Aid, Safeway, Target and Wal-Mart, along with tens of thousands of independent pharmacy locations.

I realize some of your constituents may turn to you for information, so I am reaching out to you in the event you receive inquiries. Specifically, we want to let you (and your constituents) know that:

- Express Scripts has communicated or is in the process of communicating this network change to all affected members in writing, detailing convenient pharmacy alternatives and providing a toll-free number for them to call should they have questions.
- Members can still receive prescription drug coverage from Walgreens through December 31, 2011.
- On average, Walgreens stores are located within one half mile of another pharmacy that provides the same service.

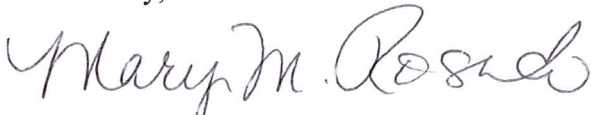
We want to make transferring prescriptions as seamless and convenient as possible, and are pleased to note that selecting a new pharmacy is easy. Members may transfer their prescriptions to a new pharmacy by doing *one* of the following:

- Take their prescription bottles to a new pharmacy; the new pharmacy will contact the old pharmacy to transfer the prescription.
- Call their new pharmacy and ask them to contact their old pharmacy.
- Ask their doctor to call their new pharmacy with their prescription information.

Express Scripts regrets that Walgreens will no longer be a participating provider in our network, but we will do whatever it takes to continue keeping prescription drug coverage affordable. We are here to assist members through this transition. Again, should your constituents have any questions, please direct them to our website at Express-Scripts.com/services/members/networkchange/ or have them call us at **1.877.885.3409**; TRICARE beneficiaries can call us at **1.877.885.6313**.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any specific questions.

Sincerely,



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