

Where We Stand

**Regulation of
Pharmacy Benefit
Management Companies**

AMCP Academy
of Managed
Care Pharmacy®

Where We Stand

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy believes that government should encourage an environment in which pharmacists working within managed care organizations, including pharmaceutical benefit management companies, can continue to develop innovative and integrated strategies to manage prescription drug benefits for a given patient population. The Academy opposes statutory and regulatory proposals that unduly restrict the ability of pharmacists working within managed care organizations from utilizing tools and services that are essential for the management of a prescription drug benefit. These types of proposals are objectionable if they go beyond procedural protections and enter an arena traditionally within the purview, expertise and experience of health care professionals. The imposition of such restrictions potentially incapacitates managed care pharmacists from considering the range of clinical, legal, quality-of-life, safety and pharmacoeconomic factors which form the basis for the design and implementation of effective drug benefit strategies and programs. The goals of these strategies and programs are to improve the delivery of patient-oriented pharmaceutical care and restrain the increases in the cost of prescription drugs.

Economic realities, safety issues associated with potentially dangerous medications, patient noncompliance with drug regimens and other pragmatic considerations require that managed care pharmacists, physicians, nurses and others have broad latitude in structuring drug benefit programs. Proposals that would limit the flexibility to use existing and develop new strategies could have unintended consequences. Unnecessary or overly burdensome regulatory restrictions could place patients at risk and

increase the cost of health care. The result could compromise the availability and affordability of the prescription drug benefit. The benefits could be reduced or made available to a smaller patient population or the benefit itself could be eliminated.

The ability to develop programs and utilize tools and services to manage prescription drug benefits helps to assure that the benefit is affordable for both patients and purchasers. It further helps assure the benefit is delivered in a manner designed to optimize achieving therapeutic outcomes desired by patients and the health care professionals responsible for their care. Providing appropriate flexibility will mean that pharmacists and other health care professionals can respond to a complex and continually changing health care delivery system.

If you have any questions, please call the AMCP office at (703) 683-8416 or (800) 827-2627. ♦

*Approved by the AMCP Board of Directors,
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About AMCP

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) is a professional association of pharmacists and associates who serve patients and the public by the promotion of wellness and rational drug therapy through the application of managed care principles. The Academy has more than 4,800 members nationally who provide comprehensive coverage and services to the more than 200 million Americans served by managed care. More news and information about AMCP can be obtained on their website, at www.amcp.org.

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