



Independent Pharmacy Alliance of America Inc.

President
James Vizzoni, R.Ph.

CEO
John A. Giampolo

Dir of Gov't & Public Affairs
Anthony Reznik

Government Affairs Division

Cedar Brook Corporate Center
3 Cedar Brook Drive
Cranbury, N.J. 08512
(P) 800-575-2667 (F) 609-395-1007
E-mail: info@ipagroup.org
Web: ipa-rx.org
Twitter: @ipapharmacies

To: IPA NJ Members

From: Anthony Reznik

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Legislative Update

IPA's Top Government Affairs Priorities for 2018

There's Never Been a Better Time to End PBM Abuses

1. **NJ PBM Reform Law P.L.2017, c.383:** The New Jersey PBM reform law will bring every PBM doing business in the state under the jurisdiction of the Department of Banking and Insurance. The law goes into effect in April and we are working with our pharmacy partners as a coalition on the enforcement of the law to end PBM abuses. **Stay tuned for more information.**
2. **S728/A3717 Prohibit Retroactive Reductions in Pharmacy Payments:** S728/A3717 would prohibit PBMs from retroactively reducing payment on properly filed claims. It does not apply to Medicare claims. NJ state law cannot regulate Medicare Part D. **Referred to the Senate Commerce committee for consideration & is pending committee referral in the Assembly. (Support)**
3. **S429/A2383 Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights:** Too often PBM auditors, some of whom are paid based on the number of discrepancies found, go beyond the basic intent of the audit (to detect fraud, waste and abuse) and instead focus on typographical or administrative errors which they use as the basis to recoup money from the pharmacy. S429/A2383 establishes reasonable protections for pharmacies such as providing 14 days advance written notice of the audit and clerical errors shall not be deemed fraudulent in the absence of any financial harm or other evidence. **The bills are pending in the Senate Commerce committee & Assembly Regulated Professions committee. (Support)**
4. **S961/A2590 Pharmacy Choice Bill:** S961/A2590 would require all Medicaid managed care organizations to permit all pharmacies in NJ to dispense prescriptions for all covered medications. This bill is designed to prevent pay to play fees and unreasonable terms from keeping independent pharmacies out of the specialty drug market, and gives Medicaid patients the right to choose their pharmacy. **Referred to Senate Health committee & Assembly Health committee for consideration. (Support)**
5. **S830 Marijuana Legalization:** Legalizes possession and personal use of small amounts of marijuana for persons age 21 and over. **Working with the sponsor on amendments to include pharmacy in the bill.** **Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee (Support)**
6. **A3292 Opioid Warning Sticker:** Requires prescription opioid medications include warning sticker advising patients of risk of addiction. **Referred to the Assembly for consideration. (Monitoring)**

Thank You for Your Support of Independent Pharmacy

If you have any questions or comments regarding the IPA RxPAC-NJ or the status of issues affecting pharmacy, please contact Anthony Reznik, IPA's Director of Government & Public Affairs at 800-575-2667 or info@ipagroup.org. For updates, please visit our website at www.ipa-rx.org, sign up to receive our emailed monthly updates and follow us on twitter: @ipapharmacies.