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## Legislative Update

To: IPA NJ Members

From: Anthony Reznik

April 12, 2017

### **NJ Board of Pharmacy Guidance: New law requires a five-day limit on initial opioid prescriptions written by prescribers**

Signed into law on February 15, S3 requires a **five-day limit** on initial opioid prescriptions written by prescribers, lowered from 30 days, to avoid deadly drugs from getting into the hands of the vulnerable. **The law takes effect on May 16th** and the NJ Board of Pharmacy released guidelines for pharmacists.

**Although the new law and rules will primarily impose additional responsibilities on prescribers, the NJ Board of Pharmacy guidance below may be useful for pharmacists:**

- The law and rules do not impose any additional requirements for pharmacists to confirm that a prescription must be limited to a five-day supply of medication. However, note that pharmacists are required to perform their corresponding responsibility to ensure that all prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances are being written for a valid medical purpose.
- Beginning with the 2019 biennial renewal of pharmacist licenses, pharmacists must complete one (1) credit of continuing education (CE) programs or topics concerning prescription opioid drugs, including alternatives to opioids for managing and treating pain.

**IPA strongly encourages all members to read the entire guidance document which is available at [www.ipa-rx.org](http://www.ipa-rx.org) and click on the Government Affairs tab.**

### **NJ Medicaid Updates: Changes to Fee-For-Service (FFS) Reimbursement for Retail Pharmacies**

NJ Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services (DMAHS) has opted to apply a new professional fee to retail, as well as long-term-care pharmacy services. Also, Estimated Acquisition Cost (EAC), the previous basis for calculating ingredient drug costs, was replaced by the Actual Acquisition Cost (AAC) which is a more accurate reference price for states to reimburse pharmacies. The State was required to consider these changes in order to ensure that total pharmacy reimbursement was adequate to ensure access and quality of care.

- The new professional fee for retail and long-term-care pharmacy claims of **\$10.92 replaced the previous dispensing fee \$3.73.**
- The new rules were implemented for NJ Family Care FFS pharmacy claims with service dates **on or after April 1, 2017.**
- The new requirements shall be implemented for PAAD, SG and CF pharmacy claims with service dates **on or after July 1, 2017.**
- ADDP claims with service dates on or after **July 1, 2017** shall also be subject to the covered outpatient rule requirements.

**For the definition of AAC, please refer to DMAHS' newsletter which can be found at [www.ipa-rx.org](http://www.ipa-rx.org) / click on the Government Affairs tab. IPA strongly encourages all members to read their entire newsletter to understand their new reimbursement and dispensing fee changes.**

**HOLD THE DATE: IPA's Independent Pharmacy Owners Meeting - Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm**  
**(NEW LOCATION) APA Woodbridge Hotel - 120 S. Wood Ave, Iselin, NJ 08830 (FREE DINNER)**