



Medicaid Pharmacy Reimbursement Reform

Trends and Recommendations



Key issues

- Medicaid Rx costs soaring: \$27.3 billion in 2010
- Need for fresh look at drug costs in new fiscal and industry environment
- Medicaid FFS pays more for the same services than PBMs and MCOs
- Medicaid should be paying the lowest price available

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Medicaid Pays More Than Private Payors

In a sample of 12 states, Medicaid pays 1%-11% more to the pharmacy per script than commercial payers.

State	Gross Revenue / Brand	Gross Revenue / Generic	Average Gross Revenue	Average Gross Profit	Percent Overpaid	Est. Savings, CY 2011 (in millions)
Private	\$ 125.37	\$ 21.36	\$ 58.52	\$ 10.19	N/A	N/A
CO	\$ 132.25	\$ 23.50	\$ 61.56	\$ 13.23	6.6%	\$ 16.6
CT	\$ 132.15	\$ 22.65	\$ 60.98	\$ 12.64	5.6%	\$ 23.2
DC	\$ 139.50	\$ 24.00	\$ 64.43	\$ 16.09	11.5%	\$ 5.6
IA	\$ 136.34	\$ 23.84	\$ 63.22	\$ 14.88	9.4%	\$ 25.6
KY	\$ 132.00	\$ 24.50	\$ 62.13	\$ 13.79	7.6%	\$ 43.6
MA	\$ 130.50	\$ 22.50	\$ 60.30	\$ 11.96	4.4%	\$ 19.4
ME	\$ 130.85	\$ 22.85	\$ 60.65	\$ 12.31	5.0%	\$ 10.0
NH	\$ 127.75	\$ 21.25	\$ 58.53	\$ 10.19	1.3%	\$ 1.7
NY	\$ 128.63	\$ 22.50	\$ 59.64	\$ 11.31	3.3%	\$ 133.3
VA	\$ 138.38	\$ 23.25	\$ 63.54	\$ 15.21	10.0%	\$ 28.2
VT	\$ 133.45	\$ 24.25	\$ 62.47	\$ 14.13	8.1%	\$ 9.2
WV	\$ 130.00	\$ 24.80	\$ 61.62	\$ 13.28	6.7%	\$ 23.0



Unique Medicaid Features

Pharmacy Networks

- Need for adequate access
- Influence of provider community
- Different types of providers
 - Rural/Urban
 - Chain/independent
 - Higher levels of care

Medicaid as payor of last resort

- Third party liability challenge
 - Pay and chase vs. preventive actions
- Primary / secondary billings



Fee For Service vs. MCO

Fee For Service 73% of expenditures	MCO/capitated 27% of expenditures
Open formularies [OBRA90]	Formulary restrictions
State-managed or contracted to PBA	PBM managed
Less advanced cost-containment measures	Prior Authorization, Step Therapy, etc

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Provider Reimbursement

- **Medicaid must reimburse at Estimated Acquisition Cost; most states still use AWP**
- **States reimburse at the lower of:**
 - Brand: AWP - X% or Usual & Customary (U&C)
 - Generic: SMAC or FUL or AWP - X% or U&C
- **High dispensing fees + inflated AWP + industry litigation on AMP = excess profit**
 - AWP rollback and AMP redefinition help somewhat

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Provider Dynamics

**Rx Revenue
Market Share**



- Chain drugstores and mass/grocery dominate
- Mail generally not an option for FFS Medicaid recipients
- Long-term care and specialty provide more complex services and are typically paid a premium

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Policy Dynamics

- **Huge variability in reimbursement rates among states**
 - Strength of pharmacy lobby
 - Sophistication of Medicaid agency
- **Some states have innovated successfully**
 - MAC lists
 - Generic substitution

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Efforts to Lower Costs Through Reimbursement

- Nine states moved from AWP to WAC, which is still manufacturer-reported
- Alabama and Oregon moving to Actual Acquisition Cost-based reimbursement
 - Transparency limits arbitrage/spread
 - AAC based on averages; still allows for competition
- Major changes require CMS approval, but a strict definition of U&C could be established through state statute or regulation

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Common Sense Reform is Possible

- **Reimbursement reform can increase transparency and lower costs**
- **Medicaid should not pay more than commercial payors and Medicare Part D**
- **Pharmacies can still make a profit without hiding it from sight**

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