



INNOVATIX POSITION PAPER

Any Willing Pharmacy Provider

The Issue

Some Medicare prescription drug plans select certain pharmacies to serve as the plan's preferred pharmacy. As a result, many patients in these plans must change pharmacies or face higher copays in order to stay with their current pharmacy. To address this concern, proposals from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Congress would require plans to offer any willing pharmacy a single contract with standard terms that include all potential preferred cost combinations and negotiated prices. This policy approach is referred to as any willing pharmacy provider.

A proposed 2014 CMS rule advanced the any willing provider policy for Medicare Part D as a new alternative to current market practice, where plans offer different contracts to preferred and non-preferred pharmacies. The proposed definition of any willing pharmacy includes the following key points:

- Increased access for beneficiaries to preferred level cost share with any willing pharmacy able to agree to the terms and conditions that include preferred cost sharing.
- Improved opportunity for competition among pharmacies contracting with the sponsor to charge no more than the ceiling price stated in the contract for preferred cost sharing.
- Improved clarity for beneficiaries about cost-sharing levels at mail order and retail pharmacies.

When the final rule for plan year 2015 was issued, it unfortunately did not finalize the any willing pharmacy provider policy.

Endnotes

1. 2015 Medicare Part D proposed rule (42 CFR Parts 409, 417, 422, 423, and 424) released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on January 6, 2014, and published in the Federal Register on December 10, 2014 (p. 1978).



Congress also proposed any willing provider changes to Medicare Part D with the introduction of H.R. 4577 Ensuring Seniors Access to Local Pharmacies Act of 2014. This legislation sought to address concerns about pharmacy access for beneficiaries located in medically underserved areas. The legislation did not advance in the 113th Congress and is expected to be reintroduced in 2015.

Our Position

Innovatix strongly supports the any willing pharmacy provider policy for Medicare Part D. This important policy will allow patients to use their pharmacy of choice so long as the pharmacy is willing to meet the drug plan's terms and conditions.