



AMCP's Adam Colborn Gives a Legislative, Regulatory, and Judiciary Update on Trending Topics in the Pharmacy Space

Last month, AMCP Nexus 2023 convened thousands of managed care pharmacists in Orlando, Florida. Amidst the continuing education sessions and networking opportunities at the meeting, Adam Colborn, Director of Government Affairs at AMCP, sat down with Managed Healthcare Executive on Oct. 18 to discuss legislative, regulatory, and judiciary updates in the managed care pharmacy space. PBM reform legislation, federal court rulings on ERISA preemption, and implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act were top of mind during the interview. When asked about the IRA's Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (commonly referred to as Out-of-Pocket Smoothing), Colborn raised concerns with how Medicare prescription drug plans may react if patients change plans or are unable to pay the remainder of their prescription costs under the smoothing arrangement. "[The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan] is a good first step but there are a lot of questions that still remain to be answered," Colborn adds.

Watch [Part One](#) and [Part Two](#) of the interview.

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AMCP Comments on Requirements Related to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Act

On Aug. 30, the Departments of the Treasury, Labor, and HHS solicited public comments on a proposed rule regarding implementation proposals for the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. On Oct. 17, AMCP responded with comments which highlighted several underlying issues with the proposed rule. AMCP is concerned that the proposed rule places excessive administrative burden on plans to implement and comply with the necessary requirements by the effective date. AMCP and its members also fear that the proposed rule could significantly restrict plans' ability to engage in medication utilization management, while new requirements to the pharmacy benefit may inhibit plans' ability to demonstrate compliance. Finally, AMCP believes that the proposed rule's pharmacy network adequacy requirements and material difference standard for outcomes measures create undue restrictions on AMCP members' ability to provide affordable access to medication.

[Read AMCP's Oct. 17 comment letter.](#)

Now Available: Key Takeaways from AMCP's Aug. 2 IRA Workshop Kickoff

On Aug. 2, AMCP kicked off its first virtual Workshop on the IRA. The closed, four-hour event gathered representatives from across the managed care pharmacy sphere to begin multistakeholder discussion and collaborative action on consensus-based recommendations for operational implementation of the IRA that can be disseminated for industry-wide use and, ultimately, elevation to CMS. Following the workshop, AMCP circulated a document to attendees highlighting the major points of discussion, unanswered questions, and other takeaways gathered from the inaugural workshop. The Aug. 2 IRA Workshop takeaways document is now available to all AMCP members on AMCP's IRA Resource Center. After hearing updates on the implementation of several provisions from Senior Advisors with the Center for Medicare, attendees identified the need for continued collaboration and transparency among all entities involved in the IRA's implementation. Workshop attendees also highlighted the expected challenges in operationalizing programs

such as price negotiation for Part D drugs and the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan.

[View the takeaways](#) from AMCP's Aug. 2 IRA Workshop Kickoff.

AMCP Comments on Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in HHS Programs or Activities

On Sept. 14, HHS unveiled a proposed rule which would update and amend section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in HHS programs and activities. Given AMCP's strategic priority of addressing health disparities in medication use and access, AMCP offered comments in response to the proposed rule on Nov. 13. AMCP's comments specifically support HHS' proposed clarifications on discrimination against people with disabilities in the context of prescribing, dispensing, and managing medications. AMCP also shares HHS' concerns about the potential for discriminatory application of value-assessment methodologies and believes that the focus of any methodologies used should be on clinical- and patient-reported outcomes, safety, and real-world data when determining value.

Read the Nov. 13 [comment letter](#).

AMCP Celebrates America's Managed Care Pharmacists During National Pharmacy Month

With the month of October dedicated to National Pharmacy Awareness, AMCP CEO Susan Cantrell penned a blog on Oct. 25 to highlight the efforts of managed care pharmacists across the country, and to share the policies that AMCP and its members are advocating for to facilitate patient health and equity. Cantrell also touches on the vital role that all pharmacists play in local communities and how that role may be elevated with passage of the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacists Services (ECAPS) Act of 2023 (H.R. 1770/S. 2477). The bill, which

AMCP enthusiastically supports, makes permanent COVID-era authorities related to pharmacist patient care services, including testing, vaccination, and administration of prophylactic treatment, while also allowing these services to be covered and reimbursed under Medicare Part B. AMCP has also created [an advocacy campaign](#) in support of the ECAPS Act, which allows individuals to directly encourage their Members of Congress to cosponsor the bill.

Read the full [National Pharmacy Month blog](#).

Register Now: Access, Affordability, and Outcomes: The Value of Managed Care Pharmacy Webinar

Managed care pharmacy and prescription drug coverage is a growing part of the American health care sector. The AMCP report "Access, Affordability, and Outcomes: The Value of Managed Care Pharmacy" authored by Heather Bates and Susanna Leaf from Berkeley Research Group (BRG) was created to help build awareness of the existence, prevalence, and importance of managed care pharmacy. AMCP is pleased to invite the authors to share their findings and to discuss how professionals in this field facilitate appropriate access to prescription treatments while remaining mindful of rising costs. Attendees of this webinar will learn more about:

- Pharmacy benefit design and implementation.
- Medication utilization management, such as prior authorization and step therapy.
- Quality and safety program management.
- Promoting affordability and access.

This webinar is free to AMCP members, and will occur on Thursday, Dec. 7 from noon–1pm ET.

[Register today](#).