



### Prescription Drug Coverage<sup>1</sup>

Appropriate access to and use of prescription medications promotes both patient well-being and the efficient use of medical resources. Access to a comprehensive prescription drug benefit coupled with proper use of those medications has been shown to reduce the severity of, and complications arising from, many common illnesses.

#### **AMCP Position:**

AMCP supports the inclusion of prescription drug coverage in all health care benefit programs.

- **Promotes patient health**

Giving patients access to appropriate medication and making sure these are used in a clinically effective manner, is critical in assuring patients' overall health. Many standard medical protocols now in use have at their core the premise that appropriate access to and use of medications coupled with proper patient monitoring, treatment, counseling, and follow-up care, help reduce the incidence of complications and improve overall patient outcomes.

- **Restricting prescription drug coverage increases cost**

Failure to provide prescription drug coverage means fewer Americans will have effective drug programs available, thereby diminishing their access to pharmaceutical care, and increasing the chance they will require more intensive, costly health care services, such as surgery and/or hospitalization.

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*The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) is a national professional association of pharmacists and other health care practitioners who serve society by the application of sound medication management principles and strategies to assist patients in achieving positive therapeutic outcomes. The Academy's 6,000 members develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit. More news and information about AMCP can be obtained on its website, at [www.amcp.org](http://www.amcp.org).*

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<sup>1</sup> See AMCP's Where We Stand Position Statement on Prescription Drug Coverage, Revised January 2004.  
[http://www.amcp.org/wvs\\_rxcoverage/](http://www.amcp.org/wvs_rxcoverage/)