

To Whom it may concern:

I want to share with you some stories of how PBM's can be predatory to local businesses and patients. Last summer, about 3 months after my patient had a heart attack and went from 1 medication to 6 medications, he brought in a letter to me from his insurance's PBM. It was 6 pages of "we can't ship your medication until we hear from you". He asked me how they got his information about what medication he was taking and how they obtained a prescription. We had been packaging his medication in convenient dose packaging that puts all his morning meds and nighttime meds in one cup that is labeled, dated, and ready to pick up at his local pharmacy since the heart attack. But his PBM wanted him to get his meds from their pharmacy and since we are 352 miles from the closest CVS, they wanted him to use mail order. They even contacted his doctor, with out his permission, to obtain prescriptions. They were calling his phone daily with persistence. I explained to him how they had access to the information, and it gives them an unfair advantage, because I can't solicit patients that way, nor do I want to. He finally was able to tell them no enough times, he wasn't interested and they stopped calling. Luckily for me this patient understands the value of a local brings and he did not switch to mail order. I know I haven't been so lucky with other patients.

In Late fall CVS-Caremark sent my patients letters that I was no longer a preferred pharmacy and they could switch to mail-order, local CVS (352 miles away remember), or use one of the following pharmacies: and then listed my pharmacy as a preferred pharmacy. Nothing but confusion happened from this letter. I was still a preferred pharmacy, they just wanted patients to switch to them. I had 4-5 patients bring these letters into me, but I am sure they were mailed many more.

I encourage you to support house bill 2598.

*Kezia Uhrich*

Kezia Uhrich PharmD.

Oakley Health Mart Pharmacy