

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 25, 2011

Senator Earl L. McCormick, Chair
 Representative Meredith N. Strang Burgess, Chair
 Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
 100 State House Station
 Augusta ME 04333-0100

Dear Senator Earl L. McCormick, Representative Meredith N. Strang Burgess and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services is required by the Healthy Maine Prescription Program Act, 22 MRS §258(6), to report on the Maine Rx enrollment and financial status by the second week of January each year.

Background

The Maine Rx program allows qualified Maine residents to buy drugs at a discounted rate (or the same rate that MaineCare will pay). These residents are not eligible for MaineCare and have an income level up to 350% of the federal poverty level. The eligible citizens receive a discount card that is honored by most community pharmacies. Retail chains that have their own discount program do not accept the discount card. The Department does not pay for any portion of the drug, but does pay its Pharmacy Benefit Manager a fee for processing the claims. The Pharmacy receives an incentive payment for accepting the card and providing low income Mainers with this benefit.

Data

Maine Rx Data Summary for Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2010	
Current member count	40,919
2010 Clients	9,200
Administrative cost 2010	\$116,000
Pharmacy Incentive Payments	\$29,500
Total Maine Rx Costs	\$145,500

Page Two

Conclusions

This program keeps drug costs down for many members who do not have other insurances. As previously mentioned, there are pharmacies such as Walmart, Hannaford, CVS, and Rite Aid that have better discounts under their own programs and they do not participate in the Maine Rx program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have regarding the report or requirements.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Begin
Acting Commissioner

RJB/klv

cc: Jennifer Palow, Pharmacy Director, DHHS, MaineCare Services