

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Office of MaineCare Services
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March 13, 2019

Senator Geoff Gratwick, Chair
Representative Patty Hymanson, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333-0011

Dear Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson 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 Title 22: HEALTH AND WELFARE; Subtitle 2: HEALTH; Part 5: FOODS AND DRUGS Chapter 603: PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACCESS HEADING: PL 1999, C. 786, PT. A, §3 (NEW) Subchapter 1: MAINE RX PLUS PROGRAM HEADING: PL 1999, C. 786, PT. A, §3 (NEW); 2003, C. 494, §1 (RPR) § 258 to report annually on the Maine Rx enrollment and financial status.

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 limit. The eligible citizens receive a discount card that is honored by most community pharmacies. The pharmacy receives an incentive payment for accepting the card and providing low income Mainers with this benefit. 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.

Data

Maine Rx - Data Summary	Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2018
Participants Enrolled	83,917
Participants with Utilization	14,178
Pharmacies Enrolled	392
Administrative Cost <i>*Exact amount cannot be determined, but is estimated*</i>	\$20,000
Pharmacy Incentive Payments	\$35,874
Total Maine Rx Cost	\$55,874

The exact administrative cost cannot be determined as it was included into the larger contract with Change Healthcare, a contract that runs \$5-6 million per year. The estimated administrative cost is based on prior years.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Lambrew". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Lambrew
Commissioner, DHHS