



BEHIND THE SCENES: WHAT HAPPENS WITH PHARMACY CONTRACTING

***THE BRUTAL REALITIES OF CONTRACTING WITH
PBMS***

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the history and purpose of pharmacy services administrative organizations (PSAO).
2. Describe common contracting terms such as MAC, DIR, GER and BER.
3. Describe the difference between direct and group/PSAO contracts with payers.
4. Explain contract aspects that need to be negotiated in any situation.

Your New Health Care System

Central Node: Secretary Health & Human Services

Major Branches:

- New Government:** President, Homeland Security Department, Social Security Administration, Office of Personnel Management, Justice Department, Labor Department, Medicare Part A Trust Fund, Medicare Part B Trust Fund, IPAB, CMS, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, Health Industry, Physicians, etc.
- Expanded Government:** Medicare, Medicaid/CHIP, Medicaid Health Home Program, State Medicaid Agencies, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, etc.
- Private:** Private Entity with New Mandates/Regulations/Responsibilities, Private Interest Provisions, etc.
- New Relationships:** Regulations/Requirements/Mandates, Reporting Requirements, Oversight, Money Flows, Consultation/Advisory/Info Sharing, Structural Connections, etc.

Legend:

- New Government:**
 - Red circle: Rationing Potential
 - Yellow circle: Mandates
 - Blue circle: Taxes and Monetary Fees/ Penalties/Cuts
 - Green circle: Trust Fund (Rationing Potential)
 - Orange circle: Represents Bundles of Additional Entities
- Expanded Government:**
 - Red circle: Government with Expanded Authority/ Responsibility
 - Yellow circle: Government Financial Entity with New Inflows/ Outflows
 - Blue circle: State/Territory with Expanded Authority/ Responsibility
- Private:**
 - Blue circle: Private Entity with New Mandates/ Regulations/ Responsibilities
 - Orange circle: Unchanged Private Entity
 - Green circle: Private Interest Provisions
- New Relationships:**
 - Red arrow: Regulations/ Requirements/ Mandates
 - Yellow arrow: Reporting Requirements
 - Blue arrow: Oversight
 - Green arrow: Money Flows
 - Orange arrow: Consultation/ Advisory/ Info Sharing
 - Blue arrow: Structural Connections (Includes Existing)

Other Key Nodes: IRS, Treasury Department, Congress, Essential Health Benefits Package, Government Health Benefit Exchanges, Health Insurance CO-OP, Health Care Choice Compacts, NAIC, MedPAC, GAO, US Territories, CO-OP Advisory Board, Private Purchasing Council, MEWA Health Plans, W2 Health Insurance, Self-Insured Health Plans, Small Employees, Large Employees, Individuals, Mandates, Regulations, & Trusts, Flexible Spending Arrangement, FSA Contribution Limit \$2,500, Medical Expenses Above 10% of Income (AGI) are Tax Deductible, Patients, etc.

**Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148;
Health Care & Education Reconciliation Act, P.L. 111-152**
*Prepared by: Joint Economic Committee, Republican Staff
Congressman Kevin Brady, Senior House Republican
Senator Sam Brownback, Ranking Member*



“Flustercluck



**The
Season 2 Episode 9
Punisher**



THE PSAO: *A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT*

- United Drugs
- Family Care/QS1
- RxPr1de
- Wholesalers and Buying Groups



2016: *CONSOLIDATION BEGINS*

Arete Pharmacy Network (2016)

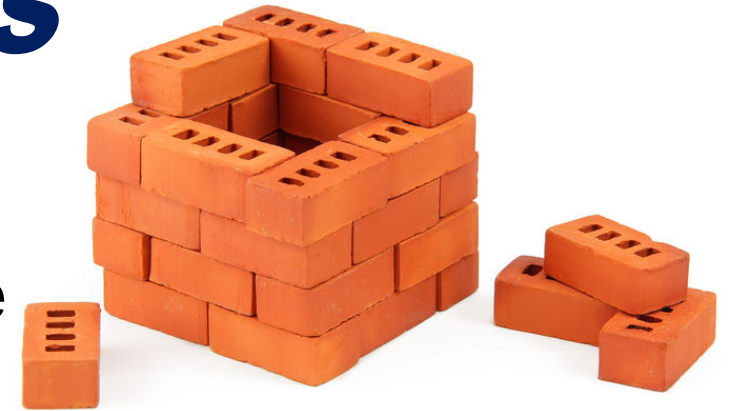
United Drugs, Third Party Network, and RxPr1de

UnifyRx (2017)

Pharmacy Providers of Oklahoma (PPOk) and Tri Net

Health Mart Atlas (2018)

Access Health and American Pharmacy Network Solutions
(APNS)





THE REMAINING PSAOS

Arete Pharmacy Network
PPOK

EPIC Pharmacy Network
Pharmacy First

Elevate Pharmacy Network
Health Mart Atlas
LeaderNet





CONSOLIDATION WAS/IS NECESSARY

CVS Caremark and Aetna
UnitedHealth Group and OptumRx.
Cigna and Express Scripts.





Over 400



CONTRACTING: *GLOSSARY OF TERMS*

MAC: *Maximum Allowable Cost* is a pricing model for multi-source generics that specifies an upper limit on the amount that will be paid per unit of medication.

DIR: *Direct and Indirect Remuneration* is a fee that is paid from a pharmacy to a payer and can be flat dollar or percentage based.

GER: *Generic Effective Rate* is an average discount off of Average Wholesale Price (AWP) applied across all generic medications.

BER: *Brand Effective Rate* is an average discount off of AWP applied across all branded medications.



GOVERNING DOCUMENTS



Provider Manual



Contract



Annual Amendments



ALWAYS RED-LINE

**Rates. DIR-Like Fees. Central Pay
Protections. Audit Protections.
Quality Terms. *Delinquent Payments.*
Eligibility. Termination Clauses. **Assignment.****



PSAO Contract

Better rates (most often)

**Access to closed and
preferred networks**

Better protections

Vs.

Direct Contract

**No effective rate contracts
(until 2020)**



What Works

Better access

***Arete, Epic, HMA and LeaderNet**

Better protections on audits

Lower DIR-like fees potentially

Attestations can be aggregated

What Doesn't

Quality scores may be diluted by others

Uneven experience on reimbursement

May have access you do not want

MAC laws

Piggy bank



MAC Contracts

No floor on how low MAC rates can go

Allows for spread pricing

Largely disconnected from market pricing

Uneven pharmacy experience

Can change often during contract period

Effective Rate Contracts

Some PSAOs do true-ups

True-ups may be done by the PBMs

Network is paid in a range

PBMs are still learning

Uneven experience as there is too much store to store variation



QUESTIONS

“Why does a
PSAO sign a
bad contract?”

“Why have
PSAOs signed
effective rate
contracts?”



WHY SIGN EFFECTIVE RATE CONTRACTS?

	Clint's Pharmacy	Jon's Pharmacy	Rob's Pharmacy
Geographic Region	East	Central	West
Generic Rates (Qtr. 4)	5% below cost	10% above costs	3% below costs
GER Contract Offering	4% above costs	4% above costs	4% above costs
Actual GER Yr. 1	1% above costs	6% above costs	4% below costs

ENHANCE PROFITABILITY, STREAMLINE OPERATIONS, AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE



WHY SIGN A BAD CONTRACT?

MAC-based contracts can be changed at any time.

Most contracts are for multiple rate/network options.



Emily's Pharmacy



SITUATION

20 patients
enrolled with
a given PBM
preferred
network.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Obtain a PBM
preferred
contract so
patients are not
referred to a
chain pharmacy.

REACTION TO PSAO OBTAINING CONTRACT

Positive;
Retains patients
and profitability
is largely
unchanged.

Stella's Pharmacy



SITUATION

20% of
business is with
a certain PBM
Preferred
network.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Wants exclusion
from preferred
contract; would
rather lose
patients and
avoid the
profitability hit.

REACTION TO PSAO OBTAINING CONTRACT

Negative; Loss
of profitability
has a large
impact on
pharmacy.