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# Save money on specialty and other high-cost drugs with our High-Cost Drug Discount Optimization Program

Specialty and other high-cost drugs have made headlines in recent years for the rising costs seen nationwide. While these drugs amount to 2% of total prescriptions, they add up to 48% of the total cost. It's a challenge every employer faces in managing health care benefit costs for their employees. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network have a new way to help you meet that challenge.



### WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

"My doctor told me how much this medicine is, and I had no idea how I was going to pay for it. I am so thankful that you are involved. This is easy."

"Thank you so much for your help. You have a great way of explaining everything in a way I understand."

"I usually do not answer calls to my home phone, but I am so glad I took this call. You have been so helpful. I will hang onto your number and let you know if I have any problems. Thank you so much."

"This is a great program."

#### **OUR SOLUTION**

The High-Cost Drug Discount Optimization Program, powered by PillarRx, helps your members find and take advantage of manufacturer copayment assistance programs that significantly lower their out-of-pocket costs for these expensive medications. The savings may make the difference in helping your members afford their medicine, increasing their adherence with their medication therapy and improving their health.

Members will save on more than 300 specialty and high-cost drugs.

Program discounts will save self-funded group customers even more by slashing the costs they pay for their members' eligible specialty and other high-cost medications. Self-funded group customers will also save on plan costs as members' true out-of-pocket costs after discounts will be reflected in their benefit accumulator totals.

Blue Cross and BCN have offered the program to self-funded customers since July 1, 2020. Groups with high-deductible health plans and plans that have pharmacy deductibles also can add the program to their benefits.



#### **GETTING RESULTS**

Self-funded groups save an estimated 25% on the cost of the specialty and other high-cost drugs included in the program, with no change to current rebate payments or pharmacy network options. That amounts to saving self-funded group customers an average of about 10% of their total prescription drug costs per year, depending on their members' drug utilization.





## PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFERS NEW SOLUTION

An add-on program through a PillarRx partnership with Payer Matrix can provide you and your employees even more savings through manufacturer patient assistance programs, or PAP, that send medications to members directly.

This program requires additional approval, but Payer Matrix will coordinate gap prescription fills for members to ensure no disruption in their care while waiting for their PAP application reviews.

The Payer Matrix patient assistance program fees are also 25% of that program's savings, capped at \$45,000 per member per drug each year.

### HOW IT WORKS

You just sign a letter of understanding with your Blue Cross sales representative to get started. The program will be available to your members within 90 days.

Blue Cross and BCN identify eligible members based on their claims history for drugs included in the program. After enrolling, members can save significantly. They may even pay nothing for their medication refills. With the High-Cost Drug Discount Optimization Program, members will never pay more than their usual copayments.

PillarRx sends introductory information to eligible members and then calls to enroll them and explain how the program works, what to expect at the pharmacy and answer questions. PillarRx communicates with pharmacies to send members' discount information. After they're enrolled, there are no other steps members need to take to save on their specialty and other high-cost medications in the program. They can call consultants at PillarRx at any time at **517-583-3944** with questions about their copay assistance.

Similar pharmacy benefit manager programs use manufacturer copay assistance to cover members' usual cost for drugs. The Blue Cross program maximizes the value of discounts available from drug manufacturers so we can provide substantial savings to our group customers and members. Only the amounts members pay for their prescriptions will apply toward their deductibles (if applicable) and annual out-of-pocket maximums.

The group customer program fee for health plans without deductibles is 25% of the amount saved on medications, which groups will see reflected on their monthly invoices. Group reports are available that show the amount of manufacturer copay assistance for each covered prescription, total member savings, the 25% fee and the group's net savings. If there are no savings, there's no fee.

The group customer fee for plans with deductibles is \$90 per claim.

Claims won't reflect a change to member out-of-pocket costs. PillarRx connects eligible members with discounts and reports the utilization information to Blue Cross. These dollars aren't included in the member's accumulators for deductibles or out-of-pocket maximums.

The High-Cost Drug Discount Optimization Program, powered by PillarRx, is one of the solutions Blue Cross offers pharmacy plan customers to improve member health and lower costs. Talk to your Blue Cross sales representative or contracted agent to find out more and request a customized savings estimate for your group.

PillarRx is an independent company providing Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network with a high-cost drug discount program.

#### bcbsm.com/groupRx