

EAST END HEALTH PLAN

BULLETIN - SPECIAL EDITION

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

August 2002

EAST END HEALTH PLAN
WILL USE NEW
MAIL ORDER PROVIDER
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2003

The East End Health Plan is very pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2003 there will be a new provider for the Plan's mail order prescription drug service. The Plan will be changing from its current provider, Express Scripts, to AdvancePCS, the same provider that administers the retail prescription drug card program for the Plan

While the Plan will be changing the provider of this service, it is important to know that none of the benefits will change as a result of this switch. You will continue to receive the same mail order benefit that has always been in place.

There are a number of reasons for this change. Most notably the following:

- % By using the same vendor for both the retail drug card program and the mail order program, it will be easier to provide the enrollees of the program with better customer service.
- % The costs associated with AdvancePCS are lower than with Express Scripts. The money saved on the drugs that are dispensed and the administrative fees will help the Plan keep the premium rates it charges as low as possible.

This change will not take place until January 1, 2003. Until then, keep using the same process to order any prescription drugs you may receive via the mail order program. Between now and January 1st, there will be additional mailings to you with more details.

The EEHP realizes the importance of the mail order program and we are taking every step to ensure that the transition will go smoothly. This is the reason we are informing everybody at such an early date.

If you are currently receiving a mail order drug and you have a refill that will need to be filled between now and January 1st, continue to use the program just as you always have. For refills after January 1st, you will need to get a new script and submit it to AdvancePCS.

Because you will need a new script for any refills after January 1st, you may want to discuss this with your doctor. If you have any doctor visits scheduled between now and the end of the year, please make a point to discuss this during your visit. Let your doctor know that the mail order provider is changing and that after January 1st, any refills on file will have to be replaced with a new script.

More detailed information will be sent in the coming months. Until then, if you have any questions, please contact your District's Health Plan Coordinator. At this point in time, it is still too early to contact AdvancePCS with any questions.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- % Remember that effective last January, the structure of the Rx drug benefit changed. There are now three different co-pays based on the category that the prescription drug falls under.

	Retail	Mail
Generic	\$5	\$0
Preferred	\$15	\$9
Non-Preferred	\$21	\$15

- % The EEHP has always had a mandatory generic substitution clause in its Rx drug benefit. This means that if you take a brand name medication, when there is a generic medication available, you will continue to pay the difference in the cost

Keep in mind that over the next few years, some very popular prescription drugs will be coming off patent and will have generic drugs available. Please talk to your doctor about generic substitutes and whether any will be available any time soon for the medications that you take.

- % Should you have any questions about which drugs are considered preferred and non-preferred or the mandatory generic substitution benefit, please call AdvancePCS at (800) 966-5772. Should you have any other questions about the East End Health Plan, please contact Vytra Member Services at (800) 877-9370.