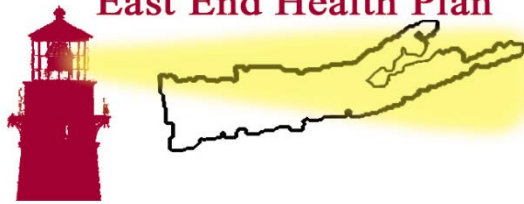


East End Health Plan



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Legislation Regarding 90 Day Prescription at Local Pharmacy

Over the last several months articles have appeared in our local newspapers about legislation that the Governor has signed regarding the purchase of a 90 day prescription at the local pharmacy rather than only through a mail order program. The news articles have summarized the legislation without elaborating on any of the details of the legislation specifics. This has created some confusion as to how the legislation impacts the members of the East End Health Plan as well as our local family owned pharmacies. Also, a number of our local Pharmacies had participated in a petition campaign to encourage our Legislators to support this legislation.

The EEHP Trustees would like to provide some clarification of the legislation to hopefully avoid any misunderstanding of its application to our Plan members. The legislation signed by the Governor only applies to commercial insurance providers and not to self-insured plans such as the East End Health Plan. Therefore, as of right now, EEHP members can only receive a 90 day supply of a prescription through mail order.

Also, the Governor signed the legislation on the condition that the legislature would retroactively amend the new law to require retail pharmacies to accept the same reimbursement rates for Prescription drugs as mail-order pharmacies. Without this amendment the Prescription Drug costs to Health Plans in the State of New York would escalate, contributing to higher premium increases in future years. The specific language for this amendment reads as follows:

That the network participating non-mail-order retail pharmacy agrees in advance, through a contractual network agreement, to the same reimbursement amount, as well as the same applicable terms and conditions, that the insurer [or medical expense indemnity corporation] has established for the network participating mail- non-retail pharmacy.

The East End Health Plan Trustees will continue to monitor the direction of this legislation and its impact on our Plan members and will keep you informed as new information is made available.