

“Ways to Save on Prescription”

May & June 2024



Purpose & Focus



- Review Furman's BCBS Medical & Pharmacy Plan
- Define & Discuss Prescription Cost
- BCBS Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) Optum Rx
- BCBS Pharmacist Perspective and Discussion
- Question & Answer

Furman's BCBS Pharmacy Highlights

Plan Overview

Medical Plan Administrator: **BCBS of South Carolina**

Pharmacy Benefit Manager(PBM): **Optum Rx**

Fully Insured Plan: **BCBS** assumes risk & sets premiums based on claim history.

Plan Options: **Plus, Basic, HDHP w/ H.S.A.^**

(HDHP – High Deductible Health Plan)

(H.S.A. - Health Savings Account)



Current Medical Plan Design

	Plus Plan	Basic Plan	HDHP Plan
Office Visit	\$30 Copay	\$30 Copay	Subject to Ded
Specialist Visit	\$50 Copay	Subject to Ded	Subject to Ded
Urgent Care	\$50 Copay	Subject to Ded	Subject to Ded
Emergency Room	\$250 Copay	Subject to Ded	Subject to Ded
Telemedicine	\$30 Copay	Subject to Ded	Subject to Ded
Preventive Care*	100%	100%	100%
Deductible (Individual/Family)	\$800/ \$1,600	\$1,500/ \$3,000	\$3,200/ \$6,400
OOPM (Individual/Family)	\$4,000/\$8,000	\$6,000/\$12,000	\$6,750/\$13,500
Coinsurance	80% In Network 50% Out of Network	80% In Network 50% Out of Network	80% In Network 50% Out of Network

Ded = Deductible OOPM = Out of Pocket Maximum

Current Pharmacy Plan Design

	Plus Plan	Basic Plan	HDHP/HSA
Retail (30 day)			
Generic	\$15 Copay	\$15 Copay	Subject to deductible
Preferred Brand	\$40 Copay	\$40 Copay	Subject to deductible
Non-preferred Brand	\$70 Copay	\$70 Copay	Subject to deductible
Specialty	\$125 Copay	\$125 Copay	Subject to deductible
Retail (90 day)			
Generic*	\$45	\$45	Subject to deductible
*90 day refills only available for generics at retail locations. Cost equates to 31 day supply times 3.			
Home Delivery (90 day)			
Generic	\$25 Copay	\$25 Copay	Subject to deductible
Preferred Brand	\$90 Copay	\$90 Copay	Subject to deductible
Non-preferred Brand	\$175 Copay	\$175 Copay	Subject to deductible
Specialty	Not Covered	Not Covered	Subject to deductible

BCBS Prescription Plan Tools

Step Therapy

- New Prescriptions must be prescribed generic lower cost option before moving to a brand/ higher cost drugs.

90 Day (Retail) fill for Generic Drugs Only

- No Longer Mandatory
- Provides Convenience and helps with Compliance

Narcotic Management

- Limits on Narcotic Medications

Dispense as Written

- Regardless if the physician writes “dispense as written” if there is a generic available and the member still chooses the brand name, they will pay their regular cost-sharing PLUS the difference in the cost between the generic and brand name.

My Diabetes Discount Program

- A value based benefit program that rewards those with diabetes who effectively manage their condition with a reduced copay on diabetic supplies. Ability to receive their insulin for no more than \$20.
- Eligible members will receive information via mail.



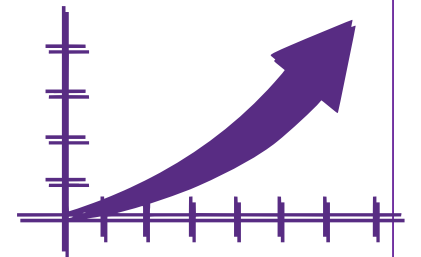
The Realities of Prescription Cost

- ✓ New Drugs to treat various medical condition and diseases prove promising.
- ✓ New Drugs help increase the quality of life for many.
- ✓ Prescription(Rx) Cost continue to rise across the nation.
- ✓ Furman is not immune to these increased cost.
- ✓ There are various tools to help with these cost.
- ✓ There are education, resources and tools available, to help navigate these realities.
- ✓ Shared efforts. (Providers, Furman, Faculty and Staff, Community)
- ✓ We can make an impact together on cost so that we can focus on the enhanced quality of life, in the midst of medical conditions and diseases.



Prescription Costs

- According to a report published in 2023 by the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):
 - “Over the period from January 2022 to January 2023, more than 4,200 drug products had price increases, of which 46% were larger than the rate of inflation.” ¹
 - “The average drug price increase over the course of the period was 15.2%, which translates to \$590 per drug product.” ¹
- According to another report published in 2022 by the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):
 - “There were 1,216 products whose price increases during the twelve-month period from July 2021 to July 2022 exceeded the inflation rate of 8.5% for that time period.” ²
 - “The average price increase for these drugs was 31.6%.” ²



Sources:

1: *Changes in the list prices of prescription drugs, 2017-2023*. (2023, October 6). ASPE. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/changes-list-prices-prescription-drugs#:~:text=Over%20the%20period%20from%20January,to%20%24590%20per%20drug%20product>.

2: *Price increases for prescription drugs, 2016-2022*. (2022, September 30). ASPE. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/prescription-drug-price-increases>

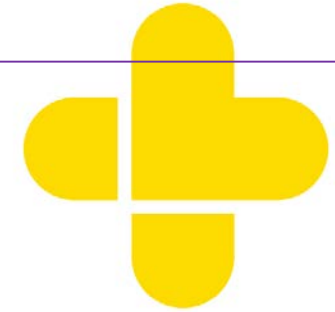
Medical Plan Realities & Strategic Steps

Continue to consider your options and use various resources and tools available:

- BCBS My Health Toolkit (MHT)- Optum RX
- Engage with your physician have conversations(ask if a generic option is available.)
- Look for manufacturers' discount programs.
- Utilize GoodRx and similar companies, such as Cost Plus Drugs.
- We recognize that each situation is unique and that these options are not always feasible.
- When possible, we encourage you to check your options to save you and the plan money.



GoodRx



The cost of medication varies significantly based on where you get your prescriptions! Use the GoodRx platform to find the local pharmacy that offers your prescription at the *lowest cost*.

- Download the GoodRx app to search pharmacy costs in your area. Compare the costs of the prescription at pharmacies located around you.
- Good Rx discounts are not applied to your annual deductible or out-of-pocket limit on your medical insurance.
- Don't forget! Always ask your provider if there is a generic alternative available when prescribing medication.



Pharmacist Perspective

Adam Shumaker

Blue Cross Blue Shield Director of Clinical Pharmacy Management



Questions

