



Pharmacy Benefits Managers Workgroup

Meeting #1

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Co-Chairs: Mary Kwei, MIA, Associate Commissioner, Market Regulation and Professional Licensing
Athos Alexandrou, MDH, Director, Office of Pharmacy Services

Today's Discussion

Workgroup Member Introductions

- Representatives of entities statutorily intended to be a part of the Workgroup
- Agency staff chairing and supporting the Workgroup

Overview of 2025 Work Plan

- Topics to be covered in 2025
- Key dates
- Interim report development

Expectations for 2026

- Workgroup logistics
- Topics to be covered in 2026

Workgroup Member Introductions

HB813 (2025) Requirements

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Maryland Insurance Administration and the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, shall:

(1) convene a workgroup of interested stakeholders, including community pharmacies from both chain and independent settings, pharmacy services administrative organizations, health insurance carriers, plan sponsor representatives, drug wholesalers and distributors, non-pharmacy benefit manager-owned mail order pharmacies, brand name and generic drug manufacturers, pharmacists, pharmacy benefits managers, and managed care organizations, and third-party experts in the field of drug pricing in Medicaid;”

Workgroup Members

Entity Required to be Represented	Representative Name	Representative's Organization
community pharmacies - chain setting	Jill McCormack	National Association of Chain Drug Stores
community pharmacies - independent setting	Steve Wiener	Mt. Vernon Pharmacy
pharmacy services administrative organizations	Brian Hose	EPIC Pharmacy Network
health insurance carriers	Kim Robinson	CareFirst
plan sponsor representatives	VACANT	
drug wholesalers and distributors	Leah Lindahl	Healthcare Distribution Alliance
non-pharmacy benefit manager-owned mail order pharmacies	Scott Glasscock	Walmart

Workgroup Members

Entity Required to be Represented	Representative Name	Representative's Organization
brand name drug manufacturers	Deron Johnson	Amgen
generic drug manufacturers	VACANT	
pharmacists	Aliyah Horton	Maryland Pharmacists Association
pharmacy benefit managers	Rob Coppola	MedImpact
third party experts in the field of drug pricing in Medicaid	Allan Hansen	Myers and Stauffer
managed care organizations	Meredith Fleming	WellPoint
Maryland Board of Pharmacy (*not a required entity)	Deena Speights-Napata	Maryland Board of Pharmacy

Member Recommendations

Recommendations for open seats on the
Workgroup can be emailed to:

pharmacyservicesworkgroup.mia@maryland.gov

Agency Staff Chairs and Support

Name	Agency	Workgroup Role
Mary Kwei	Maryland Insurance Administration	Co-Chair
David Cooney	Maryland Insurance Administration	MIA subject matter expert
Paul Meyer	Maryland Insurance Administration	MIA subject matter expert
Jamie Sexton	Maryland Insurance Administration	Lead staff for Workgroup
Athos Alexandrou	Maryland Department of Health	Co-Chair
Alyssa Brown	Maryland Department of Health	MDH subject matter expert
Deanna Beebe	Maryland Department of Health	MDH subject matter expert
Dixit Shah	Maryland Department of Health	MDH subject matter expert
Andrew York	MD Prescription Drug Affordability Board	PDAB subject matter expert
Christina Shaklee	MD Prescription Drug Affordability Board	PDAB subject matter expert

Overview of 2025 Work Plan

Topics to Be Covered in 2025

HB813 Charges:

...

“(3) review coverage requirements for specialty drugs, including:*

(i) which drugs are considered specialty for purposes of formularies across carriers and pharmacy benefits managers; and

(ii) what these drugs have in common for purposes of developing a new definition for “specialty drug”;

(4) review ERISA exemptions for pharmacy benefits management regulation, including:

(i) the scope of Rutledge v. Pharmaceutical Care Management Association and subsequent case law and federal guidance;

(ii) how other states have responded to the Rutledge decision; and

(iii) what, if any, other State laws should be amended;”

...

**discussion of this topic will continue into 2026*

Key Dates

Workgroup Meetings (all virtual)

- Workgroup meeting #2: Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 3:00 to 4:00 PM
 - Topic: ERISA exemptions for pharmacy benefits management regulation
- Workgroup meeting #3: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 10:30 to 11:30 AM
 - Topic: begin discussing coverage requirements for specialty drugs, and data collection efforts related to compliance with specific provisions of State law concerning pharmacy benefit managers, specialty pharmacies, and anti-steering (note that discussion of both topics will continue into 2026)
- Workgroup meeting #4: Friday, October 31, 2025, 2:30 to 3:30 PM
 - Topic: Workgroup will present its draft interim report, and accept live public comments on it, as time allows

Written Comments

Written comments will be accepted for two weeks following each public meeting, on the topics covered in that meeting. Those can be submitted via email to:

pharmacyservicesworkgroup.mia@maryland.gov

This information will also be provided at the end of each meeting.

Key Dates

Interim Report Development

- October 9-30, 2025: Agency staff draft interim report, in consultation with Workgroup members
- October 31, 2025: Interim report released for two week public comment period
- November 14, 2025: Record closes for public comments on draft interim report
- November 17-27, 2025: Agency staff make report revisions based on public feedback (as needed)
- December 1, 2025: Revised report shared with Workgroup members for review
- December 12, 2025: Interim report finalized and submitted to the Governor's Office for review and approval
- December 31, 2025: Final interim report submitted to the General Assembly

Expectations for 2026

2026 Workgroup Logistics

Workgroup meetings will:

- Continue to be virtual and open to the public
- Begin after the conclusion of the 2026 Legislative Session
- Occur monthly, May through early fall (exact number and dates of meetings to be determined in 2026)

Workgroup membership:

- Current members will continue serving on the Workgroup in 2026
- Workgroup membership is retained by the individual, not the organization. Should a member leave their organization, Agency staff will consider appropriate replacements for their seat.

Topics to Be Covered in 2026

HB813 Charges:

“(2) review reimbursement for pharmacists, including:

(i) existing Maryland Medical Assistance Program requirements for pharmacy benefits managers and managed care organizations related to dispensing fee reimbursement, pharmacy benefits managers fees charged to pharmacies and the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, transparency in pricing and reimbursement data, specialty drug designations, and appeals processes;

(ii) how other states’ pharmacy benefits services operate in Medicaid, including in Ohio, Kentucky, New York, California, and West Virginia;

(iii) measures that offset the Department’s costs to fund the Medicaid Managed Care Program and adopt NADAC plus the Fee–for–Service Professional Dispensing, including:

1. savings associated with NADAC ingredient cost pricing and managed care organizations; and
2. pharmacy benefits managers administrative fee consolidation and rebate allocations; and

(iv) strategies for adopting pharmacy reimbursement parity and drug pricing transparency;...”



Topics to Be Covered in 2026

HB813 Charges Continued:

“(3) review coverage requirements for specialty drugs, including:

- (i) which drugs are considered specialty for purposes of formularies across carriers and pharmacy benefits managers; and
- (ii) what these drugs have in common for purposes of developing a new definition for “specialty drug”;

...

(5) review the costs associated with pharmacies contracting with commercial plans versus pharmacies contracting with the Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

(6) review provisions of State law regarding pharmacy benefit managers, specialty pharmacies, and anti-steering, including:

- (i) § 15–1611.1 of the Insurance Article related to the use of specific pharmacies or entities and the effect the section has on pharmacy costs in the fully insured market; and
- (ii) § 15–1612 of the Insurance Article related to reimbursement and the effect the section has on pharmacy costs in the fully insured market”

Questions and/or Comments from Workgroup Members



Questions and/or Comments from Public Stakeholders



Written Comments

Written comments will be accepted through EOD Wednesday, September 10, 2025, on the topics covered in today's meeting.

Those can be submitted via email to:

pharmacyservicesworkgroup.mia@maryland.gov

Thank you!

Contact Information

Maryland Insurance Administration

 **800-492-6116 | 410-468-2000 | 800-735-2258 (TTY)**

 **insurance.maryland.gov**



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