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Circular Letter: 600-049-16
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Circular Letter

September 23, 2016

TO: ALL HEALTH BENEFIT OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT HEALTH BENEFIT OFFICERS

SUBJECT: PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER TRANSITION

Purpose

The purpose of this circular letter is to provide information to all health benefit officers and assistant health benefit officers about the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) transition from CVS/caremark to OptumRx that will be effective January 1, 2017.

Background

On May 18, 2016, the CalPERS Board selected OptumRx as its new Pharmacy Benefits Manager. The company will administer prescription drug benefits for nearly 486,000 members and their dependents enrolled in the following:

- PERS Select, PERS Choice, and PERSCare PPO plans (Basic and Medicare Supplement)
 - Anthem Blue Cross Traditional & Select HMOs
 - Anthem Blue Cross Monterey & Del Norte EPOs
 - Health Net SmartCare & Salud y Mas
 - Sharp Health Plan
 - UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue Alliance
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Member Impact

CalPERS and OptumRx will do everything possible to ensure there is no disruption of prescription orders. OptumRx pharmacy network includes all major chains and access to more than 65,000 retail pharmacies Nationwide.

Most prescriptions will automatically transfer to OptumRx from CVS/caremark home delivery. Prescriptions for certain medications will not transfer. Examples include controlled substances and expired prescriptions. In these cases, members will need a new prescription from their doctor.

See attached FAQs for additional information.

**Member
Options**

During CalPERS' Open Enrollment period, **September 12 - October 7, 2016**, member(s) will have the following options:

- Take no action and CalPERS will transition the member(s) to OptumRx
 - Select Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente or an Association Plan with pharmacy benefits.
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**Member
Communication**

At the end of September, OptumRx will begin mailing transition materials to affected members. These will include the following:

- PBM Transition Mailer
- PBM Transition FAQs

In December, members will receive:

- New member ID card with OptumRx information
 - Welcome Kit
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**Additional
Resources**

Additional information regarding the new pharmacy benefits is available at [OptumRx](#) or members can call OptumRx at 1-855-505-8110 (Basic members) or 1-855-505-8106 (Medicare Part D members)

Questions

If you have any questions about this Circular Letter, after reading the FAQs, please call our CalPERS Customer Contact Center at **888 CalPERS** (or **888-225-7377**).

Kathy Donneson, Chief
Health Plan Administration Division

Attachment: OptumRx FAQs