

2016 Changes to TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Network

BLUF: Express Scripts Inc. (ESI), the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, will implement a change to the TRICARE retail pharmacy network on December 1, 2016. This change adds all Walgreens pharmacies to the network, and removes all CVS pharmacies, including those in Target stores. Beneficiaries who continue to fill a prescription at CVS after the change will pay the full cost of their prescription upfront, and file a claim for partial reimbursement as from any other non-network pharmacy.

KEY POINTS:

- The network resulting from this change will meet the access standards required of Express Scripts. The resulting network includes more than 57,000 retail pharmacies in the U.S.
- Other pharmacy chains, like Rite Aid, Walmart and supermarkets, will remain in the TRICARE retail pharmacy network.
- 98 percent of beneficiaries will have a network pharmacy within 5 miles of their home.
- Military pharmacies and the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery program are lower-cost pharmacy options still available to beneficiaries.
- This change will expand access to 24-hour, drive through pharmacies.

ACTIONS:

- Express Scripts will change their network agreement December 1, 2016.
- TRICARE and ESI will begin notifying beneficiaries of the change 60-days before it takes effect, on October 1, 2016.
- TRICARE and ESI will take additional steps to notify beneficiaries currently or recently using CVS of the need to move their prescription to another retail pharmacy, military pharmacy, or Home Delivery.
 - Beneficiaries using CVS will receive a communication telling them they need to transfer their prescription and nearby network pharmacies where they can fill their prescription.
- Beneficiaries using CVS to fill a specialty medication will receive additional assistance in transferring their prescription as needed, including phone calls and communications with the prescribing physician.
 - Communications to affected beneficiaries taking a specialty drug will show nearby specialty network pharmacies where they can fill their prescription.
 - Beneficiaries filling certain types of specialty drugs, including Limited Distribution Drugs and Hemophilia, will receive specific communications addressing their additional needs.

BACKGROUND:

- As the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, ESI is required to establish and maintain a retail pharmacy network that meets specific and stringent access and cost standards.
- This is an action implemented by ESI, within the scope of their contract with the DoD. ESI conducts negotiations with network and potential network pharmacies, with the requirement to meet certain access standards and provide value to the government.