

From: Dorne Hawxhurst
Subject: Transition to Optum Rx -- 2019 Pharmacy Benefit
Date: Thursday, January 10, 2019 6:41:47 AM

This is an update for 2019 pharmacy plan changes.

- **How to contact OptumRx.** Find links and phone contact for OptumRx and its specialty drug company on **page 2** of this document:
<https://public.courts.alaska.gov/web/forms/docs/hcatoolkit-links.pdf>
- **How to get an OptumRx Card.** If you have not yet received your OptumRx ID card, the easiest way to get one is to call OptumRx at 855-409-6999. The contact center is open 24/7. Ask the Optum rep for your member ID number, or you can ask for a card by mail. If you need a card ASAP, go to the OptumRx member portal and register using your new OptumRx member ID number at <https://www.optumrx.com/public/landing>. From there, under the “benefits and claims” tab, select “ID card.”

From: Lisa Fitzpatrick
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 2:21 PM
To: Everyone-dl
Subject: Transition to Optum Rx

Hello everyone,

As you may have read in the recent newsletters from the Division of Retirement and Benefits (DRB), effective January 1, 2018, Aetna will no longer be managing prescription benefits for the state. Instead, there will be a new Pharmacy Benefit Manager, **Optum Rx**.

While DRB anticipates this will be a smooth transition, you need to be aware of changes that apply to you. First, when filling prescriptions on and after January 1, you will need to present a **new pharmacy ID card** which you should have already received. Next, you'll want to check to be sure the pharmacy you typically use is still in-network. Having looked at the pharmacy locator for the Anchorage area, the list appears to be much the same as the list of network pharmacies used by Aetna, but wherever you live, you should **check to be sure your usual pharmacy is still in-network**. Here is a link to the network pharmacy locator:
https://www.optumrx.com/oe_alskeert/pharmacy-locator

For those that have been using **mail order pharmacy** services in the past, be aware that you'll need to enroll in OptumRx's home delivery/mail order service. Similarly, after January 1, the Aetna Specialty Pharmacy will no longer be available for **specialty medications**. BriovaRx will now be the mail-order specialty pharmacy. Following is a link to DRB's webpage which contains info about Optum Rx, including information about its mail order pharmacy and its specialty pharmacy: <http://doa.alaska.gov/dr/alaskacare/optumrx.html> (NOTE: If you have been using Costco or Diplomat to order specialty medications and wish to continue using one or the other, be aware that effective January 1, 2019, your payment for prescriptions from them will no longer be calculated using mail order pharmacy copayment rates. Instead, your

payment will be subject to retail pharmacy co-insurance rates which could result in a significant increase in cost to you.)

One final point - while pharmacy co-payment and coinsurance amounts otherwise are not changing, you may wish to check to see whether there are any changes to the classification of your medication to learn whether the cost to you will remain the same. As you may recall, in January 2017, the state moved to a three-tier pharmacy structure:

- o generic prescription drugs, also referred to as Tier 1 drugs;
- o preferred brand name prescription drugs, or Tier 2 drugs; and
- o non-preferred brand name prescription drugs or Tier 3 drugs.

Tier 1 drugs typically cost you the least amount of money; Tier 2 drugs cost you more; and Tier 3 cost the most. Because OptumRx may classify some drugs differently than Aetna, you may want to check to see if your prescription has moved from one Tier to another. If so, and if the change is going to result in increased cost to you, you might want to talk to your doctor about whether a lower cost drug may be appropriate. To learn whether a medication you are taking is Tier 1, 2 or 3, you can search OptumRx's 2019 Formulary which you can find using the following link: http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/benefits/materials/AlaskaCarePharmacy_Formulary.pdf

To avoid any problems that might result from the transition, **consider filling any prescriptions that are eligible for refill prior to the end of the year.** In all events, be sure to allow adequate time to get prescriptions filled after January 1 as there may be bumps in the road. **Those taking specialty medications or other medications that require pre-authorization may wish to contact Optum Rx now** to ensure there will be a smooth transition in getting your next prescription filled. OptumRx Health Care Advisors can be reached at (855) 409-6999 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Alaska time until December 31, 2018. After January 1, 2019, OptumRx member services will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at healthcareadvocates@akcourts.us.

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