

IPA Member Update  
Volume 5 December 2021

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Independent Pharmacy Alliance, established 1988, is a trade group and retail pharmacy buying cooperative representing over 3,700+ independent pharmacies.

## **NCPA Breaking News: DIR Fix May Be On The Way**



Late Tuesday, CMS notified several of our champions in Congress, including Georgia Rep. Buddy Carter and Montana Senator Jon Tester, that they would be using their authority to address DIR. The agency says they agree that the spiraling rise of DIR fees in recent years is a concern. What does that mean? We expect CMS to introduce a proposed rule that may finally deal with our main priority. We'll update you as things develop.

[Click this link for more information.](#)

## **New Podcast New Episode of the Independent Pharmacy Alliance Podcast with Anthony Reznik Real Politics for Pharmacy Owners with Laurie Clark**



Good news! Governor Murphy signed a new law that requires PBMs working in New Jersey's Medicaid program to disclose information on spread-pricing to the State. This week we are once again joined by Laurie Clark, who serves as Legislative Counsel to Garden State

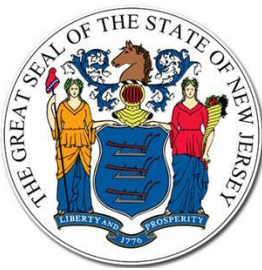
Pharmacy Owners, to tell us how this new law will help carve out PBMs from the state Medicaid program and what else can we do to help independent pharmacies on the state and federal levels.

## **Listen on your favorite apps:**

iTunes - PodBean - Spotify - Amazon Music -Stitcher -  
iHeartRadio - PlayerFM

## **Good News! Governor Murphy Signs New Law Requiring PBMs Disclose Spread Pricing in New Jersey**

*Lays the Ground Work for Carving-Out PBMs from Medicaid*



Governor Phil Murphy signed S249/A1259 into law which will require PBMs working in New Jersey's Medicaid program to disclose information on spread-pricing to the State.

**The New Jersey Independent Community Pharmacy Coalition is laying the groundwork to carve-out PBMs from the State Medicaid program.** The law will provide the State with concrete evidence that PBMs are overcharging the Medicaid program, underpaying pharmacies and not sharing all of the negotiated savings with patients. This is the first step in carving-out PBMs from the State Medicaid program.

**New York pharmacists, hit those  
phones today**

The time is *now* to urge New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D ) to sign three pro-patient, pro-pharmacy bills that have been sitting on her desk for several months.

- S6603 (Skoufis)/A7598 (Gottfried): *Fee-for-Service Parity Bill*, a minimum payment floor and patient access protections.
- S3762 (Breslin)/A1396 (Gottfried): *Registration and Licensure of Pharmacy Benefit Managers*.
- S3566 (Breslin)/A5854A (Joyner): *Anti-Mandatory Mail Order Reform Bill*.

We urge all pharmacists and patients in New York to contact Hochul and tell her to sign the pharmacy rescue package now!

- Send an [electronic message](#).
- Phone: 1-518-474-8390 | Office hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.



## Annual PAC Donation Drive - 2022

[Click this Link and Make A Donation to Stop PBM Abuse](#)



“I want to congratulate the New Jersey Independent Community Pharmacy Coalition on the latest victory which brings us one step closer to carving – out PBMs from Medicaid. I’m asking you to make your annual contribution to IPA’s PAC to support OUR PBM reform agenda. **JOIN ME in contributing \$365, just one dollar per day, to advance our cause,”** said Anthony Minniti, R.Ph., IPA PAC President and Pharmacy Owner.

# 2022 Agenda – New Jersey Independent Community Pharmacy Coalition Working Together to End PBM Abuse

1. Require PBMs to fully comply with New Jersey's pharmacy appeals and reimbursement law
2. Carve out PBMs from NJ Medicaid and return to a fee-for-service system
3. Ending PBM retroactive fees in all state regulated plans
4. Pro-Pharmacy PBM audit reforms

## Covid-19 Pharmacy News and Updates

- [CDC recommends Pfizer and Moderna vaccines over Johnson & Johnson due to rare blood clotting issue](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine billing changes for MA and MMP beneficiaries](#)
- [Pfizer vaccine protects 70% against hospitalization from omicron](#)
- [New York - Through January 15, businesses will be requiring either proof of vaccination or mask-wearing indoors](#)
- [New York Non-Patient Specific Standing Order and Protocol for Pharmacists Administering COVID-19 Vaccinations and Anaphylactic Treatment Agents](#)
- [Court pauses Biden vaccine mandate for health care workers nationwide](#)