

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

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New York Creates New Framework for Regulating PBMs

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul delivered on landmark pharmacy benefit manager reform by signing two bills on New Year's Eve. After years of being permitted to operate with impunity in New York, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) will now have a legal duty and obligation in New York to act in the best interests of patients and the health plans that they administer. Governor Hochul proclaimed the laws "the most comprehensive regulatory framework in the country for Pharmacy Benefit Managers, increasing transparency for consumers and shedding light on the cost of prescription drugs."

[To read the entire article click this link](#)

[For More Information Click this Link for PSSNY's Website](#)



PSSNY applauds Governor Hochul for taking action to protect New Yorkers from pharmacy benefit managers. These bills will expand patient choice and stifle PBMs' ability to raise drug prices, rip off taxpayers and destroy community pharmacies.

While there is much more to be done, this is an important first step toward reclaiming our broken prescription drug distribution system from the powerful corporate middlemen that control it today.

We are grateful to Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie for their leadership in prioritizing and passing these bills in their chambers; to Senators Rivera, Breslin and Skoufis, Assembly Members Gottfried, Cahill and Joyner for championing these issues; and to all the pharmacists, patients, allies and lawmakers in both parties whose tireless advocacy made this possible. We look forward to working with the Governor to address pharmacy reimbursements as part of the 2022 State budget.

DIR Fee Reform Update

This is the first time we are close to getting real action to cut drug prices

Pre-Christmas announcement by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of a probe of controversial fees charged by pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs — middlemen in the drug supply chain — in response to requests from Senator Brown and other Democratic senators. The move could result in savings of \$7 billion to \$9 billion,

[To read the entire article click this link](#)

Governor Murphy Reinstates Public Health Emergency to Respond to Omicron Variant



TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy reinstated a Public Health Emergency, effective immediately, in order to ensure that the State is able to respond to the continued threat of COVID-19 and the rapidly spreading Omicron variant.

“COVID-19 remains a significant threat to our State and we must commit every resource available to beating back the wave caused by the Omicron variant,” said Governor Murphy.

[To read the announcement click this link](#)

Wall Street Journal: New York's Record Wave of Omicron-Variant Cases Sees Fewer Severe Ones

Fewer New York residents are seeing the worst outcomes of Covid-19 in its latest surge compared with earlier waves, a potential harbinger of what other highly vaccinated parts of the country will experience, health officials say.

- About 73% of all New York City residents are fully vaccinated, and about 27% have received an additional dose.
- Fully vaccinated patients are staying in the hospital for an average of four days, compared with almost two weeks for unvaccinated patients.
- Healthcare providers say there is a stark difference inside hospitals between people who are fully vaccinated and those who aren't.

[To read the entire article click this link](#)

Covid-19 Pharmacy News and Updates Click Links to Read the Articles

- [FDA Expands Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer COVID-19 Booster to Include Individuals 12 Years and Older](#)
- [Flu + Coronavirus = Flurona. What you need to know about co-infection experts are watching](#)
- [NCPA: COVID-19 vaccine billing changes for beneficiaries](#)

- [Antivirals locator data is up and available](#)
- [CDC shortens Pfizer booster wait time to 5 months — down from 6 months — after receiving the second shot](#)
- [Note these COVID-19 vaccine Medicare billing changes](#)
- [CONSUMER ALERT: New York Attorney General James Asks Consumers to Report Price Gouging of At-Home COVID-19 Testing Kits and Other In-Demand Items](#)
- [FDA Authorizes Additional Oral Antiviral for Treatment of COVID-19 in Certain Adults](#)

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