

IPA Member Update
Volume 7 – Nov 2023

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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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Already have an account? **Login In Here.**

Registration gives you access to all IPA services, vendor promotions and free virtual CE programs.

NCPA Unveils an Opportunity to Fight Back Against DIR Fees

Pharmacists wronged by PBMs and big insurance companies can get an opportunity to fight back by joining new trust to recover DIR fees



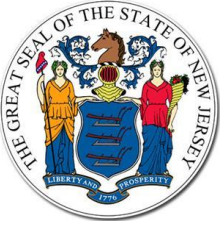
NCPA announced a major new legal initiative for pharmacies that have been victimized by the unconscionable behavior of the largest PBMs. NCPA created a limited liability company, called TRUST LLC, which will investigate and, when appropriate, litigate or arbitrate on behalf of community pharmacies to recover coerced DIR fees, otherwise known as pharmacy direct and indirect remuneration fees.

For more information go to www.fightpbms.com which explains how pharmacies can sign-up to take advantage of these services **with no out-of-pocket costs.**

- **Pharmacies that assign their legal claims will not have to pay any money upfront if the Trust LLC decides to initiate arbitration on their behalf.**
- **If the arbitration is successful on behalf of a pharmacy, the Trust LLC will pay the Firms' fees and costs out of the recovery. The remaining money will go to the prevailing pharmacy.**

Important: Prior to pursuing any legal recourse, it is strongly recommended that you seek counsel from a qualified attorney who can apprise you of pertinent legal rights and implications.

SaveNJRx Pharmacy Champions Secure Victories in All NJ Legislative Races!



In the November legislative elections, New Jersey's Independent Community Pharmacy champions emerged victorious! This was a monumental win for SaveNJRx, all thanks to the incredible support from the New Jersey Pharmacy Owners who share our mission. Learn more at savenjrx.org.

We extend our deepest and most heartfelt congratulations to the SaveNJRx Pharmacy Champions who triumphed on Election Night:

**Senator Vin Gopal | Senator Linda Greenstein
Senator Elect John McKeon | Senator Elect Raj Mukherji
Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin | Assemblyman Roy Freiman**

SaveNJRx Election Victory Celebration: Late January 2024

We haven't set the date yet, but we are planning an event in late January 2024 to celebrate. Your presence will make our celebration day even more special! Stay tuned for more details, and get ready to join us for a day to celebrate our election day victories.

SaveNJRx: Igniting Change in Medicaid Fee-for-Service!



In this episode we dive into SaveNJRx, a groundbreaking movement that's shaking up the independent pharmacy landscape in New Jersey! SaveNJRx is at the forefront of a movement to unite Independent New Jersey Pharmacists, reinstate Medicaid fee-for-service, and secure millions in prescription drug savings for patients and taxpayers. Learn how you can be a catalyst for this transformation and become a part of this vital cause!

Click these links to listen on your favorite apps...

[Apple Podcasts](#) - [PodBean](#) - [Spotify](#) - [Amazon Music](#) - [iHeartRadio](#)

State Wins for Community Pharmacy available now on the NCPA website! Check out New Jersey's big win on this list!



This year's State Wins for Community Pharmacy are available now on the NCPA website! Check out New Jersey's big win on this list!

We celebrate the progress made in reforming PBM regulations, expanding authorities within pharmacy scope of practice and recognizing pharmacists as health care providers. More than half of the states saw positive legislative action along with thousands of bills that were proposed and heard in legislative committees in the last 12 months.

[Click link legislative wins map](#)

[Click link for list of Independent Pharmacy Wins](#)

NCPA urges swift action on U.S. Senate PBM bills



NCPA applauds the Senate Finance Committee for its passage last week of Better Mental Health Care, Lower-Cost Drugs, and Extenders Act provisions that would require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to define reasonable and relevant contract terms under Medicare Part D and create a process for pharmacies to report contract violations.

[Click this link to read the entire article.](#)

Express Scripts sued by independent pharmacies over alleged price fixing



Four independent pharmacies, two in Wisconsin, one in New Jersey and one in Minnesota are accusing Express Scripts of collusion through an agreement it notched with Prime in 2019.

The lawsuit alleges that the agreement allows Prime to borrow Express Scripts' substantial market power to impose lower Reimbursement Rates and higher Transaction Fees on the plaintiffs and the other retail pharmacies, and retain higher profits as a result, the suit alleges.

[Click this link to read the entire article.](#)

Pharmacy News: FDA, CMS, COVID and PBM Updates

Click these links to read the news!

- [FDA cleared for marketing the first over-the-counter \(OTC\) antigen test for COVID-19](#)
- [FDA approved Ixchiq, the first chikungunya vaccine. Ixchiq is approved for individuals 18 years of age and older who are at increased risk of exposure to chikungunya virus. The chikungunya virus is primarily transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito](#)
- [FDA approved Zepbound \(tirzepatide\) injection for chronic weight management in adults with obesity](#)
- [AARP, Pharmacists Endorse Cantwell Bill to Combat Rising Prescription Drug Costs and Unfair Practices by PBM Drug Industry Middlemen](#)
- [Webinar: FDA reviewed the Drug Supply Chain Security Act \(DSCSA\) implementation and expectations for trading partners to achieve interoperable, electronic tracing of products at the package level](#)
- [Video: Pharmacy Benefit Managers Push Anticompetitive Drug Pricing Tactics to Line Their Own Pockets](#)
- [PBMs run media blitz calling out practices of their peers, telling policymakers reforms can cut costs](#)
- [USP chapters appeared online Nov. 1. Are you ready?](#)
- [CMS releases 2024 Medicare Advantage \(Part C\) and Part D star ratings](#)

Independent Pharmacy Alliance

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