

SHBP PDC RESOLUTION 2021-2

RESOLUTION OF THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM PLAN DESIGN COMMITTEE TO CREATE AN ENHANCED SAVINGS PROGRAM FOR OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.29 et seq., the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) provides health coverage to qualified employees and retirees of the State and participating local employers; and

WHEREAS, the SHBP was enacted in 1961 for the purpose of providing affordable health care coverage for public employees on a cost effective basis; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.28, the State Health Benefits Commission contracts with carriers to provide the SHBP to eligible public employees; and

WHEREAS, all SHBP plans, with the exception of Medicare Advantage plans, are self-funded, which means that the money paid out for benefits comes directly from an SHBP fund supplied by the State, participating local employers, and member premiums; and

WHEREAS, the SHBP Plan Design Committee recognizes that pharmaceuticals, an integral part of medical treatment, keep patients healthier and extend or save lives and in many situations, proper pharmaceutical use is documented to save money by avoiding costly hospitalization, emergency room use, moving to a nursing home or repeat visits to specialists; and

WHEREAS, the SHBP Plan Design Committee recognizes that utilization of over-the-counter medications can have a beneficial health impact, although payment for such medications through the SHBP plan coverage may not result in the most cost-effective means of payment; and

WHEREAS, a subcommittee of the SHBP Plan Design Committee was formulated in order to look in depth at the issue and propose solutions to the concerns identified by the SHBP Plan Design Committee related to over-the-counter medications; and

WHEREAS, the SHBP Plan Design Committee has sought to maintain the affordability and accessibility of all efficacious medications for SHBP members despite the delivery channel and coverage, and in doing so has worked with the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Partner, currently OptumRx, to create an enhanced savings program available to all members with prescription drug coverage at no cost to the SHBP in order to continue savings to members on over-the-counter medications not covered through the SHBP plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The SHBP Plan Design Committee directs the Division of Pensions and Benefits, as administrators of the SHBP, to implement, as soon as reasonably possible, an enhanced savings program for all SHBP members that will enable members to access discounts to excluded over-the-counter medications at point of sale with the purpose of increasing access and affordability of medications to all SHBP members.

DATED: June 23, 2021