



PHARMACISTS UNITED FOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2018

**PUTT CONGRATULATES FLORIDA GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT AND STATE
LEGISLATURE FOR PASSAGE OF “PBM TRANSPARENCY BILL”**

**New Law Moves Regulation of PBMs to State’s Office of Insurance Regulation, Requires
Pharmacists to Inform Patients of Cheaper Cash Price for Drug When Available**

TALLAHASSEE, FL (March 28, 2018) – Pharmacists United for Truth and Transparency (PUTT) congratulates Florida governor Rick Scott and the Florida State Legislature for passage of HB351 -- the “PBM Transparency Bill” -- into law this week.

The new law moves oversight and regulation of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) operating in Florida to the state’s Office of Insurance Regulation and restores the right of pharmacists to inform patients of lower cost cash prices for their medications when available without fear of repercussion or retaliation by PBMs. Before the new law, pharmacies were strictly bound by contractual “gag clauses” that carried stiff penalties if broken by disclosing the availability of a cheaper “cash” (or outside of insurance) price to patients.

Other important aspects of the new law include a firmer definition of “Maximum Allowable Cost” (MAC) lists - the list of drugs covered by a patient’s prescription drug benefit plan and the price the pharmacy can expect to be reimbursed at for dispensing those drugs, as well as updating of MAC lists every seven days. Inclusion of new MAC regulation is intended to help pharmacies access the most recent information and be able to better serve patients.

“We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of the legislators and constituents who were involved in the passage of this new law, and extend our thanks to Rep. David Santiago for his sponsorship of the bill,” said PUTT president Teresa Stickler. “This new law is a major first step toward increased transparency. We now look to Florida taxpayers and legislators to protect their pocketbooks by continuing to demand transparency, especially prescription pricing for Medicaid.”

Florida joins a list of other states who have already passed or are in the process of considering new or stronger legislation to prevent the practice of patient copay clawbacks and contractual gag clauses between pharmacies and patients. To date Arkansas, New York, Arizona, Colorado, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, Pennsylvania and Missouri have either passed or are working on legislation to protect patients and pharmacy providers from clawbacks and gag clauses.

Pharmacists United for Truth and Transparency (PUTT) exists to unify, promote and preserve independent pharmacies through education and access; to monitor PBM and other industry practices which, when identified as abusive, are exposed in various manners in the interest of improving the quality, safety and cost of patient care. For more information about the negative impact of Pharmacy Benefits Management company practices on the cost and accessibility of medications, or to learn more about PUTT, visit TruthRx.org or contact Monique Whitney, (505) 480-4150.

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