# Pharmacy Benefit Manager Payment Models

Item 10 - Group Insurance Board

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## Why are we talking about this?

STAT Section



rucial drugs vastly more



By Rober



Do Prescription Drug Middlemen Keep Prices High?

August 11, 2018





## Agenda

### Informational Only – No Action Necessary

- Our Pharmacy Benefits
- The PBM Industry Landscape
- PBM Business Models
- How Do PBMs Make Money?







## **Our Pharmacy Benefits**



Carved out pharmacy benefits from the medical benefits in 2004



Maintained the fully transparent, full-pass through model for 15 years

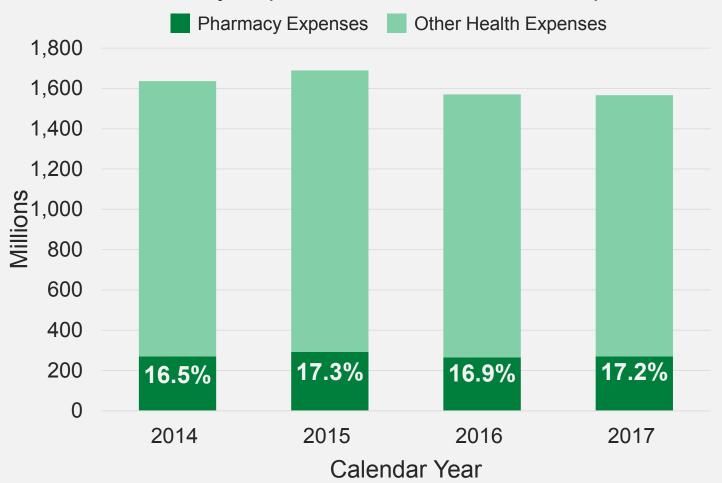


Maintained trends that are competitive with or better than industry trends



### **Our Pharmacy Benefits**





#### \$272 Million

**Average Annual Net Pharmacy Expenses** 

#### \$330 Million

Average Annual Cost of Pharmacy Claims

(before rebates, discounts, fees, subsidies, etc.)

#### \$58 Million

Average Annual Reductions in Pharmacy Cost

Source: ETF Division of Trust Finance





#### Middlemen | The role of pharmacy-benefit managers

Individuals pay premiums to their employer/plan sponsor or health insurer.



Individuals cover their prescription-drug copay, or pay cash to the pharmacy.



The pharmacy negotiates with the drug maker or a wholesaler for drug costs, as well as discounts and rebates based on the volume of drugs the pharmacy handles.

Pharmacybenefit manager



The insurance company pays the PBM to manage its drug costs, and get rebates from manufacturers. (The PBM often retains a portion of the rebate.)

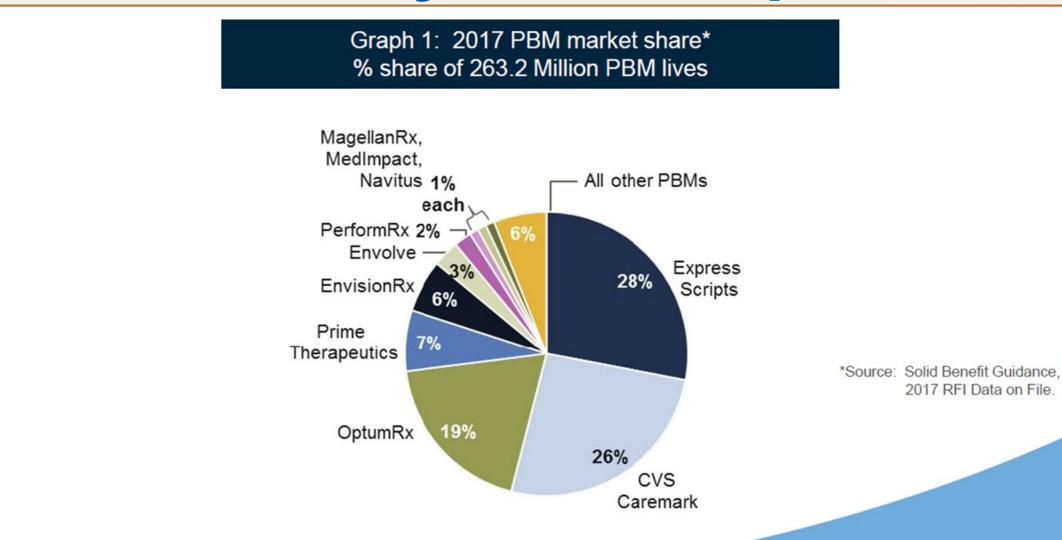
The PBM negotiates with the pharmacy over reimbursement for drugs and dispensing fees.

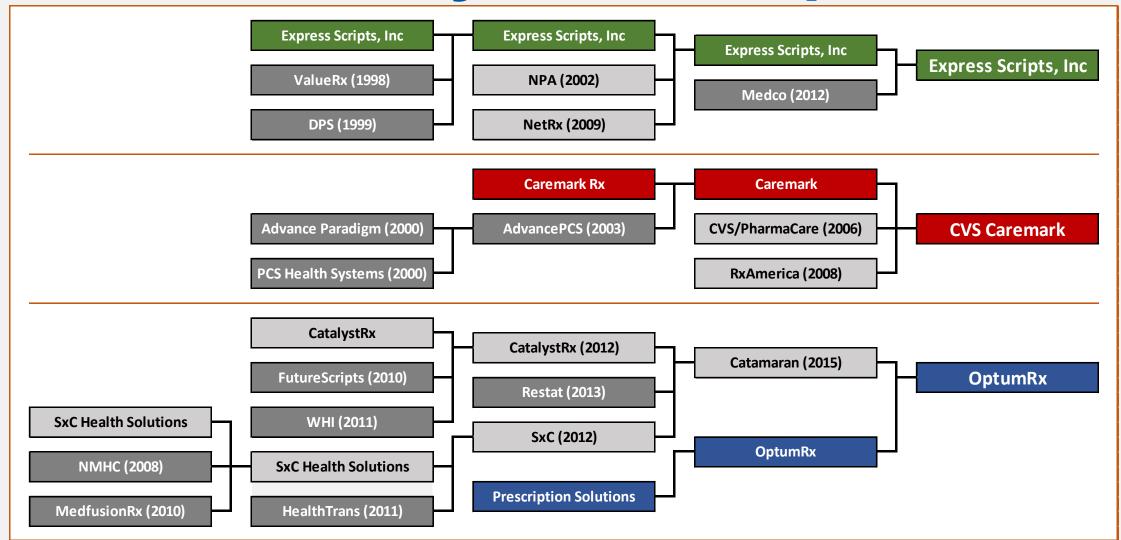
The PBM also negotiates prices with the manufacturer, which then pays rebates to the PBM for preferred placement on a plan's formulary.

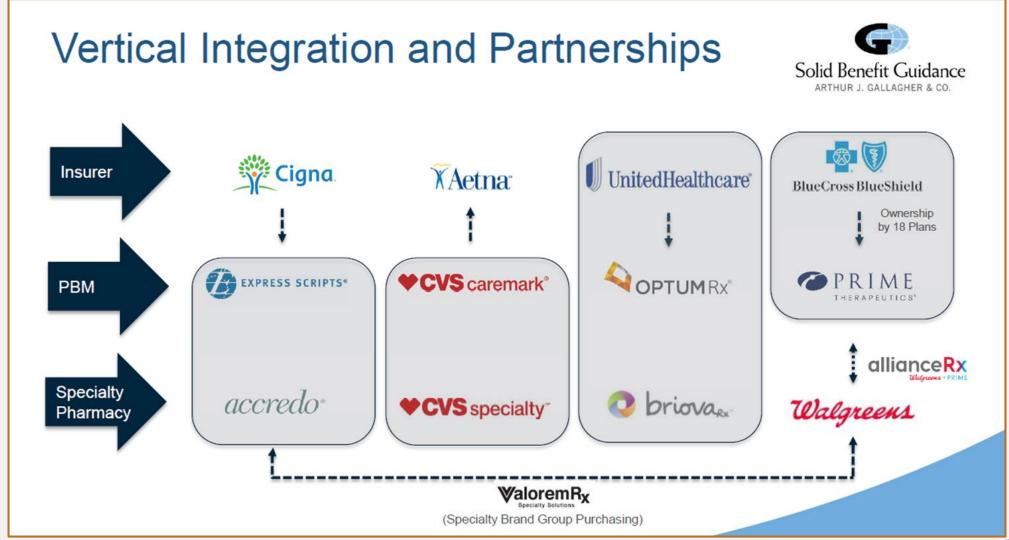


Source: Avalere Health LLC











### **PBM Business Models**

### Pass-Through

**Transparency + Lowest Net Cost** 

- PBM is paid an administrative fee for services provided, that includes clinical and analytics programs
- All other revenue sources are passed back to the payer/plan
- Full transparency financial, operational, contractual and administrative
- Focused on the lowest net cost concept

### Traditional/Spread

**Opacity + PBM Revenues** 

- PBM is paid administrative fees for services, clinical and analytics programs provided, à la carte
- PBM keeps all or a portion of various revenue sources
- Less transparency allowed plus limited access to contracts and records
- Focused on chasing rebates and revenue sources

## Compare Model Differences...

- Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) Lists
- Drug Distribution Channels
  - Retail Networks
  - Mail-Order Services
  - Specialty Pharmacy
- □ Rebates
- □ Formulary Contracts



## Comparing Model Differences: Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC)

### **Pass-Through**

- Maintains single MAC List:
  - Clients receive the full value of the contracted discount
  - No MAC revenue retention
- MAC pricing applies retail, mail order and specialty distribution channels
- Full disclosure of specific MAC list drug pricing upon client request

- Multiple MAC Lists:
  - Contracts low with pharmacies
  - Contracts high with clients
  - Retains the difference
- MAC pricing often excludes mail order and specialty distribution channels
- MAC list drug pricing is typically not disclosed to clients



## Comparing Model Differences: Drug Distribution Channels

### **Pass-Through**

- Total amount paid by the PBM to the retail, mail-order or specialty pharmacy is the exact amount the client pays the PBM for the prescription
- MAC List applies to all distribution channels – retail, mail-order or specialty
- Utilization incentives paid by mail order or specialty pharmacies passes through to the plan sponsor.

- The PBM benefits from spread revenue by retaining a portion of:
  - Drug Ingredient Costs
  - Dispensing Fees
  - Usual & Customary Costs
- MAC List not applied to mail-order or specialty distribution channels
- Revenue opportunities for the PBM increase as mail-order service and specialty pharmacy utilization increases



## Comparing Model Differences: Rebates

### Pass-Through

- 100% full pass-through of all rebates to clients
- No revenue retained by the PBM
- Full disclosure of ANY manufacturer financial benefits or revenue
- Fully auditable manufacturer agreements

- PBM typically shares a portion of the rebate with clients but retains some for its own revenue
- Other financial benefits from drug manufacturer (e.g., fees, incentives) kept by the PBM
- Manufacturer agreements are not auditable by clients



## Comparing Model Differences: Formulary Contracts

### **Pass-Through**

- Evidence based formulary; clinically appropriate drugs and lowest-net-cost
- No alignment with drug manufacturers
- Constantly monitor formulary to ensure evidence of clinical efficacy and value
- Client data is proprietary; no secure, protected client information to manufacturer
- 100% of any manufacturer fees and discounts passed back to client

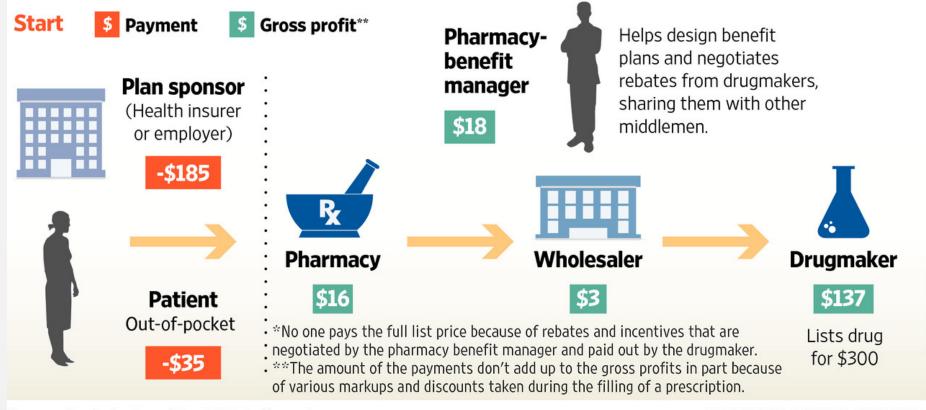
- Does not utilize a lowest-net-cost approach to formulary decisions
- Receives undisclosed fees from drug manufacturers
- Incentivized to push products based on higher rebates, not based on client or patient needs
- Often sells client data to drug manufacturers without client's knowledge





### **Sharing the Wealth**

Here is how profits are shared from a brand-name drug with a list price of \$300\*. Of the middlemen involved in the process, a pharmacy benefit manager gets the biggest gross profit of \$18.



Sources: Pembroke Consulting; WSJ staff reports

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Key Revenue Sources Available to PBMs

**From Clients:** 

**Base and Ancillary Admin Fees** 

**Clinical Program Fees** 

**Formulary and Market Share Rebates** 

**Rebate Admin Fees** 

From Drug
Manufacturers:

**Clinical Program Support Revenue** 

**Data Sale and Research Revenue** 

**Inflation Protection Payments** 

From Pharmacies:

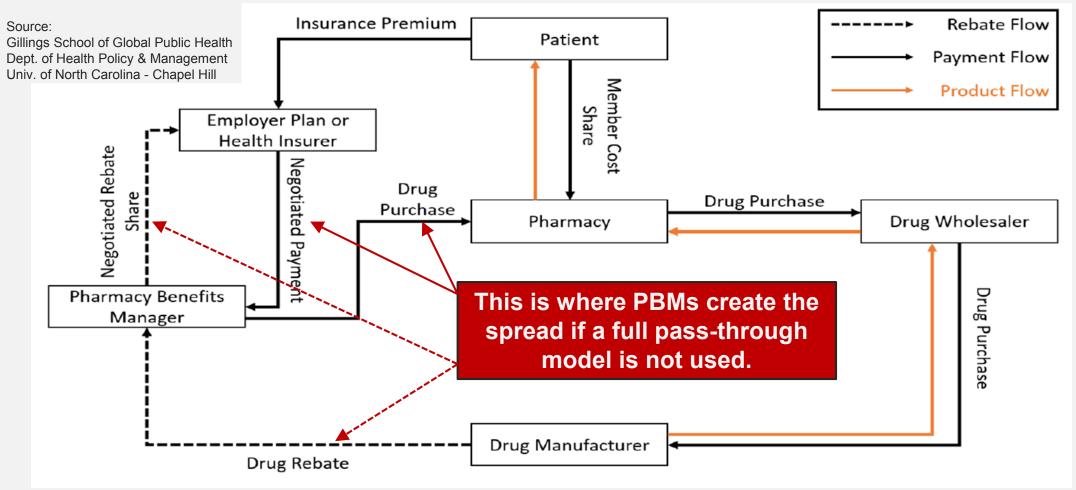
**Network Participation Fees** 

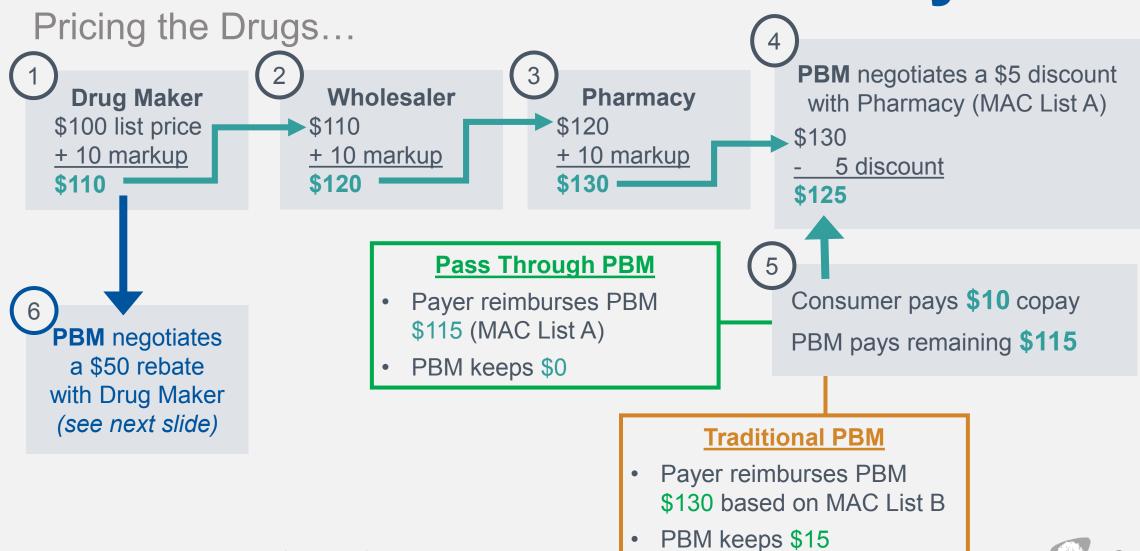
**Performance-Based Payments** 

Margins or Spread On Retail, Mail Order and/or Specialty Claims



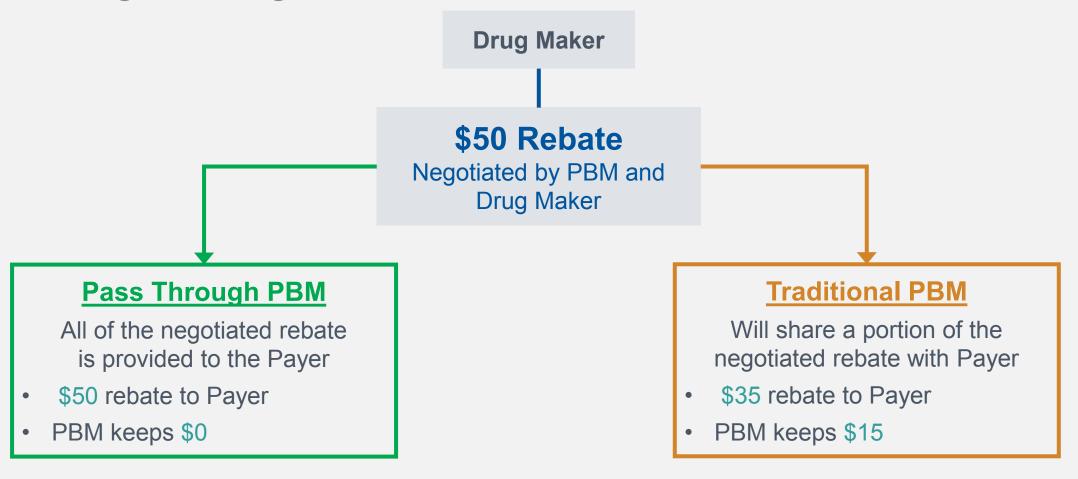
How the Products and Payments Flow Through the System







Pricing the Drugs...



Pricing the Drugs...

Money Flow Recap		
Drug Maker	Keeps \$60	\$100 list price + 10 markup - \$50 rebate
Wholesaler	Keeps \$10	\$10 markup
Pharmacy	Keeps \$5	\$10 markup - \$5 discount
Traditional PBM	Payer pays \$95 PBM keeps \$30	\$130 paid to PBM - \$35 rebate \$15 from drug purchase + \$15 from rebate
Pass Through PBM	Payer pays \$65 PBM Keeps \$0	\$115 paid to PBM - \$50 rebate

# Questions?

# Thank you











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