

IMPORTANT NOTICE – Changes to NY44 Trust Prescription Drug Plan

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 [11:19:11 AM]



At the NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust (“Trust”) Board of Trustees meeting on November 18, 2021, a decision was made to cancel certain changes and postpone other changes to the new prescription drug plan formulary with Capital Rx. Please read below for important details regarding how your current prescription drug coverage is impacted.

As you are all aware, effective July 1, 2021, the Trust changed vendors for its prescription drug plan. The transition to the new vendor, Capital Rx, resulted in several changes that would impact the Trust enrollees, for example, formulary exclusions, prior authorization requirements and drug tier changes on certain drugs. These changes fall within one of two categories “Trust Formulary Changes” which are due to differences between the prior prescription drug plan formulary and “Capital Rx Standard Formulary Changes”, which occur on at least an annual basis for all of Capital Rx’s clients. Originally, these changes were thought to be less than what they turned out to be. We apologize that these changes resulted in more disruption to enrolled employees than anticipated.

The Implementation Dates in the Notifications

The satisfaction of Trust enrollees and member schools is extremely important to the NY44 Board of Trustees. We received feedback from our member schools that the original implementation date of the formulary changes (October 1st) simply did not allow enough lead time for members who would be impacted by these changes. Consequently, the changes were postponed to December 1st and then postponed again to February 1, 2022, and you have likely already received correspondence from Capital Rx regarding these effective dates.

We Hear You and Have Acted

To lessen or resolve the expected disruption, during the NY44 Board of Trustees meeting held on November 18, 2021, the following changes were approved:

1. For Trust Formulary Changes (as described above), any current prescriptions will be grandfathered for Trust enrollees to eliminate any formulary disruption experienced as a result of the change to Capital Rx. (Current prescriptions may still be subject to the Capital Rx Standard Formulary Changes as of July 1, 2022, and in the future); and,
2. For Capital Rx Standard Formulary Changes (as described above), the effective date will be delayed **until July 1, 2022**, for **current prescriptions** of Trust enrollees.

This new effective date for the Capital Rx Standard Formulary Changes should provide adequate time for members who would otherwise be affected by the changes, to work with their physician and Capital Rx according to the instructions in the letters.

New Prescriptions for Enrollees are Not Included

Please note that all formulary changes, including any exclusions, prior authorization requirements and drug tiers, will apply to any new prescriptions for Trust enrollees. And, as of January 1, 2022, all Capital Rx Standard Formulary Changes will apply to new prescriptions for Trust enrollees.

Notification to Enrolled Employees

We are preparing a mailing to be sent to all Trust enrollees explaining the changes outlined above. In the meantime, please forward this information to Trust enrollees at your school(s). If any of your Trust enrollees have questions, please refer them to Capital Rx directly via the NY44 Trust dedicated customer call line at 1-833-772-2779 (open 24 hours a day/7 days per week).

If anyone is still uncertain whether they are affected by these changes they may contact Stacey Porter, Benefits Specialist at the Trust (phone: (716) 821-7073, email: sporter@e1b.org).

Please know that the Board of Trustees is committed to working with our member schools to provide quality, cost-effective benefits to all enrolled members. We operate and maintain the Trust for the benefit of enrolled employees in each of its member districts.

Sincerely:

Jim Fregelette

*Jim Fregelette
Chair*

Donna Walters

*Donna Walters
Co-Chair*



355 Harlem Road , West Seneca, NY 14224
Phone: 716-821-7161 | Fax: 716-821-7439 | www.ny44.e1b.org