

MEDICAID MINUTE

from the West Virginia Association of Health Plans

Welcome to Medicaid Minute from the West Virginia Association of Health Plans. Every month you can expect our newsletter to provide you with the most up to date information about the work Managed Care Organizations are doing within the Medicaid Program and for our state. We want to serve as a resource for your Medicaid questions.

HIGH-COST DRUGS

In last month's edition of Medicaid Minute, WVAHP shared an article published by the America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), that explains how your health care dollar is spent. The largest portion, 24.2 cents out of every dollar, goes to pay for prescription drugs. When comparing the United States to other countries, the U.S. has the highest prescription drug prices in the world - 255% higher than the U.K., 258% higher than France, 344% higher than 32 countries combined, and 779% higher than Turkey.

It's hard to imagine that some prescription drugs can have a price tag into the millions. With nearly 400,000 members, high-cost drugs can have a major impact on the Medicaid Program. The following is a list of high-cost drugs currently on the market at a one-time price of \$2 million or more:

Zolgensma \$2,322,044
 Zynteglo \$2,800,000
 Skysona \$3,000,000
 Elevidys \$3,200,000
 Lenmeldy \$5,100,000

The prescription drug market is growing as technology and research advances. The impact of high-cost drugs is not unique to WV, which is why many states are looking for solutions to help navigate the risk.

WV Medicaid Highlights*

Total enrollment in WV Medicaid:
 543,008 members
 MCO Total Enrollment:
 397,149 members
 SSI Enrollment:
 35,514 (9%)
 Expansion Enrollment:
 157,777 (39%)
 TANF Enrollment:
 180,924 (46%)
 CHIP Enrollment:
 22,934 (6%)

* Data Source: DHHR report 11-1-24

Good News Stories



WVAHP's newest MCO, Highmark Health Options, has been busy investing their time and resources in various communities and programs around the state. [Follow HHO](#) on Facebook to see what they are doing to make a difference in the lives of West Virginians.



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