

PHARMACY BENEFITS

PBM SAVINGS, SERVICE AND INNOVATION SOLUTION



A Superior PBM Experience

Medication can be life-saving and life-changing, helping people overcome disease, stabilize chronic conditions and live better lives. In this time of amazing breakthroughs and drug therapies, it has never been more important to offer a pharmacy benefit plan that delivers real value through choice, savings and service.

Columbia Benefits helps employers reduce their drug spend, understand cost drivers and stretch their benefit dollars - all while helping members get the medications they need at the lowest possible price.

Transparent, Predictable Pricing

With Columbia Benefits, you can expect reduced drug spend through clinical programs that focus on lowest net cost and deeper savings through innovative drug procurement options. Unlike many PBMs, we do not keep drug rebates. Instead, we use a pass-through model in which all drug manufacturer rebates are "passed through" to the pharmacy benefit plan.

Specialty medications treat complex, often lifelong conditions. These medications are taken by less than 2% of the population, but now account for approximately 50% of overall pharmacy costs.





Value and Accountability

Columbia Benefits focuses on people who rely on life-changing medications to maintain health, heal or treat complex conditions and ultimately live their best lives - and the pharmacy benefit plan makes it all possible. With value-based programs and practices, the plan's incentive is to pay for the right, and most cost-effective medications.

Variable Copay™ is a program offered through the benefit package that significantly reduces costs on eligible specialty and brand medications by utilizing manufacturer-provided coupons. Since specialty drugs represent more than 50% of pharmacy drug spend, the savings can be substantial. We also achieve savings as we evaluate a range of drug procurement options to identify the lowest-cost source for expensive brand and specialty medications.

Patient Outcomes and Convenience

As part of evaluating proposed drug therapy for a patient, clinical pharmacists investigate treatment history and potential drug alternatives to determine if a lower cost medication - generic, brand or biosimilar - can be tried first based on guidelines. Since lower cost medications are often available, this approach ensures members have access to the medications they need to support best outcomes, all while achieving savings for the plan.

Patients appreciate saving money on prescriptions and the opportunity to fill a 90-day supply allowed at local pharmacies. Add the lower copays, with the convenience of 65,000+ network pharmacies nationwide, and you have a winning combination.

Up to 30% Savings
On brand and specialty drugs through
our Variable Copay Program

Everyone Benefits with Variable Copay

- Member out-of-pocket costs are reduced
- Overall plan savings are higher

The median percentage of healthcare dollars spent on pharmacy increased from 21% in 2021 to 24% in 2022.

