

Iowa Medicaid Outpatient Pharmacy Carve-Out

HHS Pharmacy Team

Objectives



Overview of Outpatient Pharmacy Carve-Out



Benefits of Transition



Impact of Change



Billing Information



Prior Authorizations



Contact Information

Overview

The Outpatient Pharmacy Carve-out

- Removing the outpatient pharmacy program from the MCOs to FFS

Begins December 1, 2026

- Iowa Medicaid is transitioning the pharmacy benefit from managed care to a single statewide pharmacy vendor, Optum Rx.

Pharmacy & Medical Benefit

- Physician-administered medications (including vaccines) & DME will remain under the medical benefit respective to the member's overall plan.

Key Benefits of Transition

- The pharmacy program will be state-administered and not managed by a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM). Optum Rx will serve as the pharmacy benefit administrator (PBA).
- Pharmacies will work with one vendor for pharmacy claims and prior authorizations instead of four.
- Provider enrollment and claims processing will be more efficient, with pharmacies tracking payments from a single entity.



Member Impacts



Member's pharmacy benefit coverage will not change



All members will use their State of Iowa eligibility card for outpatient pharmacy services.



Members will receive a new MCO card without pharmacy information



Members will continue to use their MCO card for medical services

Provider Impacts

**Pharmacy-enrolled providers
will work with one vendor for
medication & prior
authorization questions.**

**No new enrollment for
providers.**

**Pharmacy provider
enrollment will be more
efficient.**

**Pharmacies will receive
Medicaid payments from
one entity instead of four.**

**The professional dispensing
fee will not change and will
continue through the current
update process.**

Billing Information

FFS Pharmacy Benefit Processing Information

- **ID:** Member's State Medicaid ID
- **BIN:** 011933
- **PCN:** IAPOP

Members should present their Iowa Medicaid card at the pharmacy when filling prescriptions.

FFS Pharmacy Contact Information

- Optum Rx Point of Sale phone numbers:
1-877-463-7671 or 515-256-4608 (local)
- Email address: pba_iapdinfo@optum.com
- Optum Rx Prior Authorization Help Desk:
1-877-776-1567 or 515-256-4607 (local)
- Optum Rx Prior Authorization Fax #:
1-800-574-2515
- FFS Provider Services Help Desk:
1-800-338-7909 or 515-256-4609 (local)

Prior Authorizations

MCO approved prior authorizations (PA) will not be affected by the pharmacy benefit carve-out.

If a member has an active PA for a prescription through their MCO, the PA will carryover to FFS and will remain in effect for the life of the PA approval.

Providers do not need to obtain a new PA because of the carve-out.

The transition will not interrupt access to medications that already have an approved, active PA.

Pharmacy Resources

Iowa Medicaid Pharmacy Site

- HHS website:
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid/provider-services/medicaid-pharmacy>
- Contains pharmacy resources & links - provider manuals, ILs, fee schedules, dispensing fee information, P&T and DUR Committee, etc.

Iowa Medicaid Pharmacy Site

- Hosted by Optum Rx:
<https://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/>
- Contains program policy, PDL, prior authorization criteria and forms, contact and billing Information

Contact Information

Now through 11/30/2026, contact your MCO:

Iowa Total Care:

Phone: 1-833-404-1061

Email: providerrelations@iowatotalcare.com

Molina:

Phone: 1-844-236-1464

Email: iaproviderrelations@molinahealthcare.com

Wellpoint:

Phone: 1-833-731-2143

Email: ProviderSolutionsIA@wellpoint.com

**After 12/01/2026, contact Iowa Medicaid
Optum Rx:**

Point of Sale Help Desk:

1-877-463-7671 or 515-256-4608 (local)

Prior Authorization Help Desk:

1-877-776-1567 or 515-256-4607 (local)

Email: pba_iapdinfo@optum.com

Questions



Health and
Human Services