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_iapdlinfo@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_iapdlinfo@optum.com

Questions

IOWA™ | Health and Human Services