# ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, GEORGIA, IN-DIANA, IOWA, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MICHIGAN, MONTANA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, UTAH, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Larry J. Merlo President and Chief Executive Officer CVS Health Corporation One CVS Drive Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Merlo,

The undersigned Attorneys General applaud CVS Health Corporation ("CVS") for the recently announced program to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. We are hopeful that the program's mandates – limiting to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to therapy, limiting the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and requiring the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed – will reduce the staggering number of opioid overdoses plaguing our country. We will continue to assess the details and the effectiveness of the program as they develop, and to share our reactions with you, but we are encouraged by the program's objectives. We are particularly pleased that CVS is automatically enrolling all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients in the program. We believe that automatic enrollment will make the program more effective than similar but optional programs implemented by other pharmacy benefit management companies.

The opioid epidemic is the most pressing public health crisis our country faces. It affects every state and has a devastating impact on communities – tearing apart families and stretching the budgets of local law enforcement and first responders as they do the difficult work on the front lines. For our part, Attorneys General are pooling resources and coordinating across party lines to address the crisis. Recently, there was announced a coalition of 39 states investigating various businesses for potential violations of state laws in the marketing and/or distribution practices of prescription opioids

Thank you for take a leading role in addressing this crisis. We hope your efforts yield meaningful results in reducing opioid abuse, and we will be encouraging other pharmacy management companies to implement similar programs on an automatic enrollment basis.

Larry J. Merlo October 20, 2017 Page 2

George Jepsen Connecticut Attorney General

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

David S. Carlin President Benecard Services, LLC 3131 Princeton Pike Building 2B, Suite 103 Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Carlin,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Benecard Services, LLC, ("Benecard") to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Benecard, through its pharmacy benefit management division to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

In the last two decades, opioid prescribing rates have increased nearly three-fold, from 76 million prescriptions in 1991 to approximately 207 million prescriptions in 2013. Since the expansion of Medicaid, some states have seen the number of opioid prescriptions double. This type of dramatic increase in prescriptions is of grave concern and could be attributed to fraudulent activities.

Opioids – both prescription and illicit – are now the main driver of drug overdose deaths nationwide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioids were involved in 33,091 deaths in 2015, and opioid overdoses have quadrupled since 1999.

The opioid epidemic is the most pressing public health crisis our country faces. It affects every state and has a devastating impact on communities – tearing apart families and stretching the budgets of local law enforcement and first responders as they do the difficult work on the front lines. For our part, Attorneys General are pooling resources and coordinating across party lines to address the crisis. Recently, there was announced a coalition of 39 states investigating various

David S. Carlin October 20, 2017 Page 2

businesses for potential violations of state laws in the marketing and/or distribution practices of prescription opioids.

We are encouraged, however, by measures that pharmacy benefit management companies have implemented on their own initiative to mitigate the crisis. CVS's recent announcement is a significant and noteworthy example. In addition, we were pleased to note that Express Scripts launched a program under which new opioid users were limited to seven-day prescription filling, daily dosages were limited in many instances requiring dosage limitations, as well as other measures. According to reports, analysis of 106,000 patients in a year-long pilot of the program showed a 38 percent reduction in hospitalizations and a 40 percent reduction in emergency room visits, compared to a control group.

The program announced by CVS resembles the Express Scripts pilot program, but it appears to be more preventive by automatically enrolling all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients in the program. We will continue to assess the details and the effectiveness of the program as they develop, and to share our reactions with you, but we are encouraged by the program's objectives.

Some have argued that measures like these are not sufficiently deferential to prescribing physicians and patients. While we are sensitive to such concerns – including continuing consideration of appropriate means for doctors to demonstrate legitimate needs for immediate dispensing of additional or stronger prescriptions – we note that the CVS and Express Scripts programs substantially echo the opioid prescribing guidelines issued in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The undersigned Attorneys General urge Benecard to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

David S. Carlin October 20, 2017 Page 3

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David S. Carlin October 20, 2017 Page 4

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Karl A. Racine Washington D.C. Attorney General

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Jonathon Boehm, CEO DST Pharmacy Solutions 1300 Washington Street Kansas City, MO 64105

### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Boehm,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge DST Pharmacy Solutions (formerly known as Argus), to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge DST Pharmacy Solutions, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

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Jonathon Boehm October 20, 2017 Page 2

businesses for potential violations of state laws in the marketing and/or distribution practices of prescription opioids.

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The program announced by CVS resembles the Express Scripts pilot program, but it appears to be more preventive by automatically enrolling all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients in the program. We will continue to assess the details and the effectiveness of the program as they develop, and to share our reactions with you, but we are encouraged by the program's objectives.

Some have argued that measures like these are not sufficiently deferential to prescribing physicians and patients. While we are sensitive to such concerns – including continuing consideration of appropriate means for doctors to demonstrate legitimate needs for immediate dispensing of additional or stronger prescriptions – we note that the CVS and Express Scripts programs substantially echo the opioid prescribing guidelines issued in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The undersigned Attorneys General urge DST Pharmacy Solutions to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe overprescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Jonathon Boehm October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Jonathon Boehm October 20, 2017 Page 4

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Frank J. Sheehy, CEO Envision Pharmaceutical Services, LLC 2181 East Aurora Road, Suite 201 Twinsburg, OH 4408 3

### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Sheehy,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Envision Pharmaceutical Services, LLC, ("Envision") to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Envision, through its pharmacy benefit management division to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

In the last two decades, opioid prescribing rates have increased nearly three-fold, from 76 million prescriptions in 1991 to approximately 207 million prescriptions in 2013. Since the expansion of Medicaid, some states have seen the number of opioid prescriptions double. This type of dramatic increase in prescriptions is of grave concern and could be attributed to fraudulent activities.

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The opioid epidemic is the most pressing public health crisis our country faces. It affects every state and has a devastating impact on communities – tearing apart families and stretching the budgets of local law enforcement and first responders as they do the difficult work on the front lines. For our part, Attorneys General are pooling resources and coordinating across party lines to address the crisis. Recently, there was announced a coalition of 39 states investigating various businesses for potential violations of state laws in the marketing and/or distribution practices of prescription opioids.

Frank J. Sheehy October 20, 2017 Page 2

We are encouraged, however, by measures that pharmacy benefit management companies have implemented on their own initiative to mitigate the crisis. CVS's recent announcement is a significant and noteworthy example. In addition, we were pleased to note that Express Scripts launched a program under which new opioid users were limited to seven-day prescription filling, daily dosages were limited in many instances requiring dosage limitations, as well as other measures. According to reports, analysis of 106,000 patients in a year-long pilot of the program showed a 38 percent reduction in hospitalizations and a 40 percent reduction in emergency room visits, compared to a control group.

The program announced by CVS resembles the Express Scripts pilot program, but it appears to be more preventive by automatically enrolling all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients in the program. We will continue to assess the details and the effectiveness of the program as they develop, and to share our reactions with you, but we are encouraged by the program's objectives.

Some have argued that measures like these are not sufficiently deferential to prescribing physicians and patients. While we are sensitive to such concerns – including continuing consideration of appropriate means for doctors to demonstrate legitimate needs for immediate dispensing of additional or stronger prescriptions – we note that the CVS and Express Scripts programs substantially echo the opioid prescribing guidelines issued in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The undersigned Attorneys General urge Envision to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Frank J. Sheehy October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Frank J. Sheehy October 20, 2017 Page 4

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Karl A. Racine Washington D.C. Attorney General

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Donnie Howard Chief Executive Officer Envolve 8427 South Park Circle, Suite 400 Orlando, FL 32819

### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Howard,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Envolve, to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Envolve, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

In the last two decades, opioid prescribing rates have increased nearly three-fold, from 76 million prescriptions in 1991 to approximately 207 million prescriptions in 2013. Since the expansion of Medicaid, some states have seen the number of opioid prescriptions double. This type of dramatic increase in prescriptions is of grave concern and could be attributed to fraudulent activities.

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The opioid epidemic is the most pressing public health crisis our country faces. It affects every state and has a devastating impact on communities – tearing apart families and stretching the budgets of local law enforcement and first responders as they do the difficult work on the front lines. For our part, Attorneys General are pooling resources and coordinating across party lines to address the crisis. Recently, there was announced a coalition of 39 states investigating various businesses for potential violations of state laws in the marketing and/or distribution practices of prescription opioids.

Donnie Howard October 20, 2017 Page 2

We are encouraged, however, by measures that pharmacy benefit management companies have implemented on their own initiative to mitigate the crisis. CVS's recent announcement is a significant and noteworthy example. In addition, we were pleased to note that Express Scripts launched a program under which new opioid users were limited to seven-day prescription filling, daily dosages were limited in many instances requiring dosage limitations, as well as other measures. According to reports, analysis of 106,000 patients in a year-long pilot of the program showed a 38 percent reduction in hospitalizations and a 40 percent reduction in emergency room visits, compared to a control group.

The program announced by CVS resembles the Express Scripts pilot program, but it appears to be more preventive by automatically enrolling all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients in the program. We will continue to assess the details and the effectiveness of the program as they develop, and to share our reactions with you, but we are encouraged by the program's objectives.

Some have argued that measures like these are not sufficiently deferential to prescribing physicians and patients. While we are sensitive to such concerns – including continuing consideration of appropriate means for doctors to demonstrate legitimate needs for immediate dispensing of additional or stronger prescriptions – we note that the CVS and Express Scripts programs substantially echo the opioid prescribing guidelines issued in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The undersigned Attorneys General urge Envolve to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Donnie Howard October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Donnie Howard October 20, 2017 Page 4

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Karl A. Racine Washington D.C. Attorney General

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October 19, 2017

### VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Bruce D. Broussard CEO, President and Director Humana 500 West Main Street Louisville, KY 40202

#### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Broussard,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Humana Inc., ("Humana") to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Humana, through its pharmacy benefit management division to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

In the last two decades, opioid prescribing rates have increased nearly three-fold, from 76 million prescriptions in 1991 to approximately 207 million prescriptions in 2013. Since the expansion of Medicaid, some states have seen the number of opioid prescriptions double. This type of dramatic increase in prescriptions is of grave concern and could be attributed to fraudulent activities.

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The opioid epidemic is the most pressing public health crisis our country faces. It affects every state and has a devastating impact on communities – tearing apart families and stretching the budgets of local law enforcement and first responders as they do the difficult work on the front lines. For our part, Attorneys General are pooling resources and coordinating across party lines to address the crisis. Recently, there was announced a coalition of 39 states investigating various businesses for potential violations of state laws in the marketing and/or distribution practices of prescription opioids.

Bruce D. Broussard October 20, 2017 Page 2

We are encouraged, however, by measures that pharmacy benefit management companies have implemented on their own initiative to mitigate the crisis. CVS's recent announcement is a significant and noteworthy example. In addition, we were pleased to note that Express Scripts launched a program under which new opioid users were limited to seven-day prescription filling, daily dosages were limited in many instances requiring dosage limitations, as well as other measures. According to reports, analysis of 106,000 patients in a year-long pilot of the program showed a 38 percent reduction in hospitalizations and a 40 percent reduction in emergency room visits, compared to a control group.

The program announced by CVS resembles the Express Scripts pilot program, but it appears to be more preventive by automatically enrolling all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients in the program. We will continue to assess the details and the effectiveness of the program as they develop, and to share our reactions with you, but we are encouraged by the program's objectives.

Some have argued that measures like these are not sufficiently deferential to prescribing physicians and patients. While we are sensitive to such concerns – including continuing consideration of appropriate means for doctors to demonstrate legitimate needs for immediate dispensing of additional or stronger prescriptions – we note that the CVS and Express Scripts programs substantially echo the opioid prescribing guidelines issued in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The undersigned Attorneys General urge Humana to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Bruce D. Broussard October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Bruce D. Broussard October 20, 2017 Page 4

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Karl A. Racine Washington D.C. Attorney General

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Frederick Howe Chairman and CEO Medimpact 10181 Scripps Gateway Ct. San Diego, CA 92131

### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Howe,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Medimpact, to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Medimpact, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

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Frederick Howe October 20, 2017 Page 2

We are encouraged, however, by measures that pharmacy benefit management companies have implemented on their own initiative to mitigate the crisis. CVS's recent announcement is a significant and noteworthy example. In addition, we were pleased to note that Express Scripts launched a program under which new opioid users were limited to seven-day prescription filling, daily dosages were limited in many instances requiring dosage limitations, as well as other measures. According to reports, analysis of 106,000 patients in a year-long pilot of the program showed a 38 percent reduction in hospitalizations and a 40 percent reduction in emergency room visits, compared to a control group.

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Some have argued that measures like these are not sufficiently deferential to prescribing physicians and patients. While we are sensitive to such concerns – including continuing consideration of appropriate means for doctors to demonstrate legitimate needs for immediate dispensing of additional or stronger prescriptions – we note that the CVS and Express Scripts programs substantially echo the opioid prescribing guidelines issued in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The undersigned Attorneys General urge Medimpact to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Frederick Howe October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Frederick Howe October 20, 2017 Page 4

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Karl A. Racine Washington D.C. Attorney General

# ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, GEORGIA, IN-DIANA, IOWA, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MICHIGAN, MONTANA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, UTAH, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON D.C., U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Larry Renfro, CEO Optum RX 11000 Optum Circle Eden Prairie, MN 55344

### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Renfro,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Optum RX, to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Optum RX, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

In the last two decades, opioid prescribing rates have increased nearly three-fold, from 76 million prescriptions in 1991 to approximately 207 million prescriptions in 2013. Since the expansion of Medicaid, some states have seen the number of opioid prescriptions double. This type of dramatic increase in prescriptions is of grave concern and could be attributed to fraudulent activities.

Opioids – both prescription and illicit – are now the main driver of drug overdose deaths nationwide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioids were involved in 33,091 deaths in 2015, and opioid overdoses have quadrupled since 1999.

The opioid epidemic is the most pressing public health crisis our country faces. It affects every state and has a devastating impact on communities – tearing apart families and stretching the budgets of local law enforcement and first responders as they do the difficult work on the front lines. For our part, Attorneys General are pooling resources and coordinating across party lines to address the crisis. Recently, there was announced a coalition of 39 states investigating various businesses for potential violations of state laws in the marketing and/or distribution practices of prescription opioids.

Larry Renfro October 20, 2017 Page 2

We are encouraged, however, by measures that pharmacy benefit management companies have implemented on their own initiative to mitigate the crisis. CVS's recent announcement is a significant and noteworthy example. In addition, we were pleased to note that Express Scripts launched a program under which new opioid users were limited to seven-day prescription filling, daily dosages were limited in many instances requiring dosage limitations, as well as other measures. According to reports, analysis of 106,000 patients in a year-long pilot of the program showed a 38 percent reduction in hospitalizations and a 40 percent reduction in emergency room visits, compared to a control group.

The program announced by CVS resembles the Express Scripts pilot program, but it appears to be more preventive by automatically enrolling all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients in the program. We will continue to assess the details and the effectiveness of the program as they develop, and to share our reactions with you, but we are encouraged by the program's objectives.

Some have argued that measures like these are not sufficiently deferential to prescribing physicians and patients. While we are sensitive to such concerns – including continuing consideration of appropriate means for doctors to demonstrate legitimate needs for immediate dispensing of additional or stronger prescriptions – we note that the CVS and Express Scripts programs substantially echo the opioid prescribing guidelines issued in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The undersigned Attorneys General urge Optum RX to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Larry Renfro October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Mark R. Herring Virginia Attorney General

Claude Ent Walken

Claude E. Walker U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General

Larry Renfro October 20, 2017 Page 4

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Karl A. Racine Washington D.C. Attorney General

# ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, GEORGIA, IN-DIANA, IOWA, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MICHIGAN, MONTANA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, UTAH, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

October 19, 2017

### VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Mesfin Tegenu, MS, RPh President PerformRx 200 Stevens Drive Philadelphia, PA 19113

#### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Tegenu,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge PerformRx, to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge PerformRx, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

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Mesfin Tegenu October 20, 2017 Page 2

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The undersigned Attorneys General urge PerformRx to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Mesfin Tegenu October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Mesfin Tegenu October 20, 2017 Page 4

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Jim DuCharme President and CEO Prime Therapeutics 1305 Corporate Center Drive Eagan, MN 55121

### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. DuCharme,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Prime Therapeutics, to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Prime Therapeutics, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

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Jim DuCharme October 20, 2017 Page 2

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The undersigned Attorneys General urge Prime Therapeutics to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe overprescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.
Jim DuCharme October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Jim DuCharme October 20, 2017 Page 4

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Thomas Anthony Hyde RPh President ProCare LTC 111 Executive Boulevard Farmingdale, NY 11735

#### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Hyde,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge ProCare LTC., ("ProCare") to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge ProCare, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

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Thomas Anthony Hyde October 20, 2017 Page 2

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The undersigned Attorneys General urge ProCare to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Thomas Anthony Hyde October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Thomas Anthony Hyde October 20, 2017 Page 4

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Timothy C. Wentworth CEO and President Express Scripts Holding Company 1 Express Way St Louis, MO 63121

#### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Wentworth,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Express Scripts Holding Company, to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Express Scripts Holding Company, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

In the last two decades, opioid prescribing rates have increased nearly three-fold, from 76 million prescriptions in 1991 to approximately 207 million prescriptions in 2013. Since the expansion of Medicaid, some states have seen the number of opioid prescriptions double. This type of dramatic increase in prescriptions is of grave concern and could be attributed to fraudulent activities.

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Timothy C. Wentworth October 20, 2017 Page 2

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The undersigned Attorneys General urge Express Scripts Holding Company to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe overprescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Timothy C. Wentworth October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Timothy C. Wentworth October 20, 2017 Page 4

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Karl A. Racine Washington D.C. Attorney General

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Barry M. Smith Chairman and CEO Magellan Health, Inc. 4800 Scottsdale Road Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

#### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Smith,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Magellan Health, Inc., ("Magellan") to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Magellan, through its pharmacy benefit management division, Magellan Rx Management, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

In the last two decades, opioid prescribing rates have increased nearly three-fold, from 76 million prescriptions in 1991 to approximately 207 million prescriptions in 2013. Since the expansion of Medicaid, some states have seen the number of opioid prescriptions double. This type of dramatic increase in prescriptions is of grave concern and could be attributed to fraudulent activities.

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Barry M. Smith October 20, 2017 Page 2

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The undersigned Attorneys General urge Magellan to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Barry M. Smith October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Barry M. Smith October 20, 2017 Page 4

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October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Damien Lamendola President and CEO WellDyneRx 7472 S Tucscon #100 Englewood, CO 80112-3964

#### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Lamendola,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge WellDyneRx, to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge WellDyneRx, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

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Damien Lamendola October 20, 2017 Page 2

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Damien Lamendola October 20, 2017 Page 3

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PATRICK Momsey

Patrick Morrisey West Virginia Attorney General

Jeff Landry Louisiana Attorney General

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Mark Brnovich Arizona Attorney General

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Christopher M. Carr Georgia Attorney General

Miller

Tom Miller Iowa Attorney General

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Bill Scheutte Michigan Attorney General

Gordon MacDonald New Hampshire Attorney General

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Alan Wilson South Carolina Attorney General

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Mark R. Herring Virginia Attorney General

Claude Ent Walken

Claude E. Walker U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General

Damien Lamendola October 20, 2017 Page 4

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Karl A. Racine Washington D.C. Attorney General

# ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, GEORGIA, IN-DIANA, IOWA, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MICHIGAN, MONTANA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, UTAH, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Terry Seligman RPh, MBA CEO and President Navitus Health Solutions, LLC 2601 West Beltline Highway, Suite 600 Madison, WI 53713

#### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Seligman,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge Navitus Health Solutions, LLC, ("Navitus") to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge Navitus, through its pharmacy benefit management division to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

In the last two decades, opioid prescribing rates have increased nearly three-fold, from 76 million prescriptions in 1991 to approximately 207 million prescriptions in 2013. Since the expansion of Medicaid, some states have seen the number of opioid prescriptions double. This type of dramatic increase in prescriptions is of grave concern and could be attributed to fraudulent activities.

Opioids – both prescription and illicit – are now the main driver of drug overdose deaths nationwide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioids were involved in 33,091 deaths in 2015, and opioid overdoses have quadrupled since 1999.

The opioid epidemic is the most pressing public health crisis our country faces. It affects every state and has a devastating impact on communities – tearing apart families and stretching the budgets of local law enforcement and first responders as they do the difficult work on the front lines. For our part, Attorneys General are pooling resources and coordinating across party lines to address the crisis. Recently, there was announced a coalition of 39 states investigating various businesses for potential violations of state laws in the marketing and/or distribution practices of prescription opioids.

Terry Seligman October 20, 2017 Page 2

We are encouraged, however, by measures that pharmacy benefit management companies have implemented on their own initiative to mitigate the crisis. CVS's recent announcement is a significant and noteworthy example. In addition, we were pleased to note that Express Scripts launched a program under which new opioid users were limited to seven-day prescription filling, daily dosages were limited in many instances requiring dosage limitations, as well as other measures. According to reports, analysis of 106,000 patients in a year-long pilot of the program showed a 38 percent reduction in hospitalizations and a 40 percent reduction in emergency room visits, compared to a control group.

The program announced by CVS resembles the Express Scripts pilot program, but it appears to be more preventive by automatically enrolling all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients in the program. We will continue to assess the details and the effectiveness of the program as they develop, and to share our reactions with you, but we are encouraged by the program's objectives.

Some have argued that measures like these are not sufficiently deferential to prescribing physicians and patients. While we are sensitive to such concerns – including continuing consideration of appropriate means for doctors to demonstrate legitimate needs for immediate dispensing of additional or stronger prescriptions – we note that the CVS and Express Scripts programs substantially echo the opioid prescribing guidelines issued in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The undersigned Attorneys General urge Navitus to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Terry Seligman October 20, 2017 Page 3

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Steve Marshall Alabama Attorney General

Matt Denn Delaware Attorney General

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Janet Mills Maine Attorney General

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Terry Seligman October 20, 2017 Page 4

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Karl A. Racine Washington D.C. Attorney General

# ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, GEORGIA, IN-DIANA, IOWA, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MICHIGAN, MONTANA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, UTAH, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

October 19, 2017

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Ravi Ika President and CEO RxAdvance 2 Park Central Drive Southborough, MA 01772

#### **Re:** Initiatives to Mitigate Opioid Abuse Crisis

Dear Mr. Ika,

The undersigned Attorneys General write to urge RxAdvance, to implement a program, similar to the program recently announced by CVS Health Corporation ("CVS"), to mitigate opioid prescription abuse. Specifically, the Attorneys General urge RxAdvance, through its pharmacy benefit management division, to (1) limit to seven days the supply of opioids dispensed for certain acute prescriptions for patients who are new to the therapy, (2) limit the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the strength of the opioid, and (3) require the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.

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Ravi Ika October 20, 2017 Page 2

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Some have argued that measures like these are not sufficiently deferential to prescribing physicians and patients. While we are sensitive to such concerns – including continuing consideration of appropriate means for doctors to demonstrate legitimate needs for immediate dispensing of additional or stronger prescriptions – we note that the CVS and Express Scripts programs substantially echo the opioid prescribing guidelines issued in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The undersigned Attorneys General urge RxAdvance to implement a similar program with automatic client enrollment. While there are no doubt additional measures that pharmacy benefit managers could take to combat prescription opioid abuse, we believe over-prescribing of opioids could be curtailed by the implementation of a CVS-type program. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Government and private actors, including members of your industry, must continue to seek effective responses to the opioid crisis. While we may not always agree on what those are, it is important to recognize and applaud promising efforts like those discussed herein.

Ravi Ika October 20, 2017 Page 3

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