

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Western Healthcare Alliance’s Community Care Alliance Pharmacy Benefit Manager Drives Rx Savings with Cutting Edge Services *Preserving Rural Healthcare Through Transformation*

Grand Junction, CO, January 9, 2024 – Western Healthcare Alliance’s (WHA) Community Care Alliance (CCA) is excited to announce greater than forecasted drug savings for 2023 and leading-edge program enhancements in 2024 for the Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) program.

This milestone began 18 months ago when WHA hospital members came together to take control of prescription drug costs and gain transparency into their true Rx spend. They recognized the need for shared accountability for healthier employees, increased access, and lower patient healthcare costs. The CCA PBM launched with three members on January 1, 2023.

“Like many employers across the country, we were investigating ways to reduce overall health benefit costs to employees, and we found the biggest opportunity was targeting our PBM,” said Kyle Miller, Chief Operating Officer for Memorial Regional Health. “As a Critical Access Hospital with a self-funded insurance plan, we joined the CCA PBM to reduce our overall prescription drug costs. This allowed us to have full transparency with drug costs and rebate capture, while also having decision control on medication coverages. Contrary to our experience with other PBMs, we can now control where our prescription dollars are spent, while maintaining our level of care.”

Savings for the first year were projected at roughly 30% over previous PBM relationships. To date the CCA PBM has achieved closer to 50% for its members. Rebates per script were significantly higher in 2023 under the CCA PBM while member (employee) costs per script were down. Members also created their own formulary and now manage their own Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee, giving tremendous flexibility and customization to drug plans that best suit their employees and their families.

2024 program enhancements to expand CCA PBM competitive offerings:

- Integrated with all major pharmacies and implementation has been simplified and accelerated.
- Expanded/more robust analytics and reporting platform.
- Better brand and specialty pricing (generates higher rebates).
- More robust implementation resources/teams creating greater speed-to-value, greater tech expertise for integrations/data transfer, and dedicated client support.
- Pharmacogenomics via Rx Genomix: Enables prescribers and pharmacists to accurately create effective medication therapy plans through pharmacogenomics (PGx) testing. This saves valuable time in a patient’s treatment plan. It gets the right drug and dosage matched to the patient's disease from day one.

Through coordinated care, and a fully transparent PBM controlling one third of the total healthcare spend, self-funded organizations with their employees can curb escalating costs of healthcare while improving personal health. Switching to the CCA PBM is easy, with no disruption implementations. Current co-pays are grandfathered in along with current drug exceptions, step therapy, and prior authorization exceptions.

About Community Care Alliance

Community Care Alliance (CCA) was established in 2015 by members of Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA) to provide a population health infrastructure for rural hospitals and provider communities to learn and succeed in the new healthcare environment. Meeting members wherever they are on the value-based care delivery spectrum, the CCA offers services and educational resources that allow rural members to create medical homes by implementing care coordination and chronic care management strategies to effectively manage their patients. For more information, visit <https://www.wha1.org/community-care-alliance/>.

About Western Healthcare Alliance

Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA) began in 1989 when a small group of rural Colorado hospitals decided that there was power in numbers. Today, WHA celebrates over 30 years of collaboration with 31 healthcare members in Colorado, Utah, and Michigan. A subset of WHA members own Healthcare Management, a sister company of WHA, which provides revenue cycle solutions to healthcare entities. Developing and managing a menu of member-owned and partner programs, WHA saves members money that helps them remain sustainable and viable in their communities. For more information visit www.wha1.org.

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