



Michigan Pharmacists

A S S O C I A T I O N

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOTION FILED AGAINST MEDICAID ON BEHALF OF MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS

The Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA), on behalf of MPA members and the pharmacies in the state, filed a motion for preliminary injunction yesterday in Ingham County Circuit Court to block the March 1 implementation of a planned procedure included in the Medicaid mail order program.

The basis of the complaint centers on Medicaid's unilateral decision to waive the copay only for Medicaid recipients who utilize the new mail order program. The complaint specifically includes claims that Michigan community pharmacies are not being treated fairly under the law, as required by both the U.S. Constitution and Michigan Constitution. Not collecting the patient copay required under the law is a direct violation of Public Act 349 of 2004 (budget bill approved and signed by the Governor), and is in violation of administrative regulations related to noncompliance with the provisions of the Medicaid Provider Manual.

"We had no choice but to act on behalf of our pharmacist members and in the best interests of their patients. We have been in close communication with the Department of Community Health, suggesting alternatives to help alleviate the budget issues. However, all of our attempts have been blocked, and we can't sit idly by and watch patients being economically coerced into severing the vital relationship with their community pharmacists," said Larry Wagenknecht, MPA CEO.

MPA believes that implementation of this practice will have a detrimental effect on the level of care patients receive and an obvious negative economic impact on pharmacies. As a result, MPA believes there will be a loss in tax revenue for the state of Michigan since business will shift from local Michigan pharmacies to out-of-state mail order facilities.

At this time, MPA is waiting for the court to assign a judge to hear the motion for preliminary injunction.

MPA, serving more than 3,500 pharmacy professionals, strives to be a leader in professional and scientific advancement by following its mission of encouraging and supporting its members as the professionals responsible for the delivery of patient-oriented pharmaceutical care.

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