Medication Synchronization Model Legislation

Model Legislation
Legislation is needed that would further enable beneficiaries to synchronize their medications so that they could order and receive them on the same day each month, instead of having to make multiple visits to the pharmacy. This would reduce medication waste, as well as the poor healthcare outcomes that result from decreased medication adherence. Additionally, the legislation would ensure that a pharmacy receives a full dispensing fee as determined by the contract it has with the individual or group health plan. Dispensing fees will be associated with each dispensing event and should not be affected by medication synchronization. The pharmacy should not be penalized with a lower dispensing fee for dispensing pursuant to medication synchronization; the pharmacy overhead costs remain the same.

Model Language
An individual or group health insurance policy providing prescription drug coverage in the state must permit and apply a pro-rated daily cost-sharing rate to prescriptions that are dispensed by a network pharmacy for a partial supply if the prescriber or pharmacist determines the fill or refill to be in the best interest of the patient and the patient requests or agrees to a partial supply for the purpose of synchronizing the patient’s medications.

No individual or group health insurance policy providing prescription drug coverage shall deny coverage for the dispensing of a medication that is dispensed by a network pharmacy on the basis that the dispensing is for a partial supply if the prescriber or pharmacist determines the fill or refill to be in the best interest of the patient and the patient requests or agrees to a partial supply for the purpose of synchronizing the patient’s medications. The individual or group health plan must allow a pharmacy to override any denial codes indicating that a prescription is being refilled too soon for the purposes of medication synchronization.

No individual or group health insurance policy providing prescription drug coverage shall use payment structures incorporating pro-rated dispensing fees. Dispensing fees for partially filled or refilled prescriptions shall be paid in full for each prescription dispensed, regardless of any pro-rated copay for the beneficiary or fee paid for alignment services.