



INDEPENDENT *Link*

May 12, 2009

Published by the TENNESSEE PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION and sponsored by PHARMACY PLUS

Contact Legislators about CVS Caremark on Wednesday

*Independent community pharmacists who couldn't make it to Washington this week for the NCPA Legislative Conference can still be part of the effort! Call your Congressional Members on **Wednesday, May 13**, to let them know about the problems you've had with CVS Caremark and ask them to urge the FTC to re-open the merger between CVS and Caremark. For details, please see the following information from the National Community Pharmacists Association. To learn who your U.S. Representative and Senators are, go to www.congress.org/congressorg/home/ and type your zip code in the "Enter Your ZIP Code" field on the right hand side of the screen.*

From NCPA:

Countdown to Wednesday – 2 Days Until Congressional CVS Caremark Call-In

On Wednesday, May 13th, pharmacists across the country will engage in an unprecedented grassroots effort aimed at exposing the business practices of CVS Caremark to Members of Congress.

You know better than anyone just how bad CVS Caremark's business practices have been for community pharmacies and our patients. Here is just a sample of the abuses we have heard from pharmacists since the merger of CVS, the largest chain drug store, and Caremark, one of the largest PBMs.

- Reduced co-payments for patients filling prescriptions at CVS Caremark, leading to **higher co-payments for patients using their local community pharmacy**
- Caremark patients being steered to CVS pharmacies using private patient data.
- Co-branded prescription drug cards which confuse patients into thinking that their benefit card can only be used at CVS.

The problems are well documented to any community pharmacist who works tirelessly every day to provide safe and affordable prescription drugs and services to their patients. We cannot sit back and wait while CVS Caremark continues to disregard patients' privacy and reduce access to care for millions of community pharmacy patients.

NCPA has already taken steps aimed at shining a light on CVS Caremark. On Wednesday, hundreds of community pharmacists will be visiting with their Members of Congress during the 2009 NCPA Conference on National Legislation and Government Affairs. CVS Caremark will be a key topic of discussion, but we need thousands of community pharmacists calling their Members of Congress on this issue.

Dozens of pharmacists will also be meeting with the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on Wednesday to ask him to reopen the merger of CVS Caremark.

If you think that CVS Caremark's business practices have hurt community pharmacies and our patients, you need to let your Member of Congress know and ask them to urge the FTC to re-open the merger between CVS and Caremark.

Call your Senators and Representative on Wednesday, May 13, and let them know what CVS Caremark has done to harm patients and pharmacies. You can call through the NCPA Legislative Action Hotline at:

1-800-777-5815

(Follow the automated instructions and be sure to call once for each of your two Senators and Representative.)

A staff member will pick up the phone. Tell them your name, pharmacy and number of patients you serve each month.

Here are a few talking points to use:

- CVS Caremark engages in business practices that increase costs for patients who choose their local community pharmacy and reduce privacy by using patient data to steer patients to CVS.
- Please contact the FTC and urge it to re-open the merger between CVS and Caremark, which has disregarded patient privacy and reduced access for million of patients to their local neighborhood community pharmacy.
- Please make sure that any health care reform legislation includes protections for patients and pharmacies from the abusive practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs).

	PROVIDING INDEPENDENT PHARMACY WITH THE RESOURCES TO STAY COMPETITIVE