IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
TennCare Pharmacy Stakeholder Meeting Follow-Up

On January 21, 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published the federal Covered Outpatient Drugs Final Rule (CMS-2345-FC). The regulation requires state Medicaid programs, including TennCare, to update their reimbursement methodology for covered outpatient drugs. Under the final rule, states must reimburse covered outpatient drugs at actual acquisition cost plus a dispensing fee. The regulation requires all states to be in compliance with the reimbursement requirements of the final rule by April 1, 2017. Earlier this week, TPA staff participated in a Pharmacy Stakeholder Meeting hosted by the Bureau of TennCare by webinar to outline this upcoming shift from Average Wholesale Price (AWP) to Actual Acquisition Cost (AAC).

To view a recording of the webinar, please visit http://bit.ly/2hzPWex.

To view a copy of the slides from the webinar, please visit http://bit.ly/2hzSfyv.

TennCare Pharmacy Providers will need to complete TWO SURVEYS (AAC and Professional Dispensing Fee). The surveys will be conducted by Myers & Stauff er LLC and Mercer, with whom the State has contracted to develop and maintain a comprehensive reimbursement methodology that offers its Pharmacy Providers accuracy, consistency and transparency in the rate-setting process, while complying with the new federal mandates.

ALL TENNCARE PHARMACY PROVIDERS will be REQUIRED to participate in both surveys and will receive a notice BY DECEMBER 30, 2016, about how to proceed. The Professional Dispensing Fee Survey must be completed by JANUARY 13, 2017, and the AAC Survey must be completed by JANUARY 18, 2017.

The Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA) has published information about the Actual Acquisition Cost and the Professional Dispensing Fee, along with extensive details about the information that TennCare Pharmacy Providers will be required to provide in the surveys. TPA urges TennCare Pharmacy Providers to begin compiling and preparing the required information NOW.

To access this important, time-critical information, visit www.tnpharm.org and click on the first TennCare box in the left-hand column.