Gamble, Suzanne H HLTH:EX

889404   PSD - FYI

From:	Jukes, Shaina HLTH:EX
Sent:	Monday, July 11, 2011 2:47 PM
To:	Health, HLTH HLTH:EX
Subject:	FW: Incentive points on RX

FYI

From: deJong.MLA, Mike [mailto:Mike.deJong.MLA@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 1:53 PM
To: Jukes, Shaina HLTH:EX
Subject: FW: Incentive points on RX

From: Not Responsive
Sent: July-11-11 10:53 AM
To: deJong.MLA, Mike; Bond.MLA, Shirley; premier@gov.bc.ca; Falcon.MLA, Kevin
Subject: Incentive points on RX

Congratulations on your decision to eliminate loyalty points on prescription drugs that Pharmacare pays for. Any incentive on medication simply leads to overuse and cost. I am a practicing pharmacist and have seen tremendous waste caused by these loyalty points. The following are my reasons for contacting you.

Reasons for discontinuing's loyalty points.

1. Safety   Patients stock pile medication in order to receive incentives. This means that dangerous medication is in the hands of the public. Teen agers admit that most of the illegal Rx drugs are taken from family members medicine cabinets. Patients will ask for more medication from their Drs. and Pharmacists particular when they do not have to pay for it themselves, and they are also receiving incentives to get it.

2. Transfers   Since most chains are in a bidding war to get customers they continue to try to out do each other by giving extra incentives if you transfer your Rx to them. Every time a RX is transferred the opportunity for error increases. A single decimal point on strength can be fatal.

3. Economics   The pharm care budget increases more rapidly then any other part of the health care budget. Customers (patients) when they wish to get to a certain level of points will fill Rxs early (which pharmacists are unable   to monitor day supplies eg. insulin and blood glucose test strips) and very often these medications go out of date, are not stored properly or never used.

      Not Responsive

Therrien, Darlene HLTH:EX

From: Not Responsive
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 4:37 PM
To: Therrien, Darlene HLTH:EX
Cc: Derek dyck
Subject: Re: Pharmacy Inducements Stakeholder Meeting

Greetings Therrien,

I agree with what the government is implementing in regards to points. As a pharmacist, I have seen how "little Mrs Jones" gets all her regular medication with me because of the service but waits for "10 times the points" days at Pharmacy xyz and as a result does not get the right medication regimen.

Implementation date could be June 1 2010.

Where do I put my 2 cents worth for the "professional allowances" debate?

Kind Regards,

Not Responsive

Sent on the TELUS Mobility network with BlackBerry

-----Original Message-----
From: "Therrien Darlene HLTH:EX" <Darlene.Therrien@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Tue, 20 Apr 2010 23:22:49
To: <Darlene.Therrien@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Pharmacy Inducements Stakeholder Meeting

Thank you for participating in the April 13, 2010 Pharmacy Inducements Stakeholder meeting. I appreciate your understanding of the Ministry of Health Services' (the Ministry) position related to pharmacy inducements and your continued input into implementing existing policy is valued.
In response to your comments, the Ministry is developing a formal definition for "inducements". We will report on our progress in this respect by April 27, 2010.
We also anticipate receiving responses from your respective organizations by April 27, 2010, estimating the amount of time it will take to modify any existing inducement strategies to comply with the Ministry's policy as stated in Section 2 of BC's Pharmacy Participation Agreement. This will provide us with a better idea of a reasonable implementation date.
I also look forward to any other input you may be willing to provide in respect of this matter.
Sincerely,

Darlene C. Therrien, BSc MA
Executive Director
Policy, Outcomes Evaluation and Research Pharmaceutical Services, BC Ministry of Health Services Phone (250) 952-1149

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Dear Honourable Kevin Falcon,

I am a pharmacist working at Shoppers Drug Mart. I would like to bring to your attention the problems that arise when offering Optimum points for prescriptions. Currently, Shoppers Drug Mart is offering 60,000 points redeemable for goods (a booklet of 10 coupons for 6,000 points) or $100 (10 gift cards valued at $10) for newly transferred prescriptions. For every prescription filled, they get to redeem 1 of their coupons for the points or gift cards. For example, if they transferred 5 prescriptions from another pharmacy, they get $50. For every additional prescription they fill, they get to redeem a coupon. This dollar value incentive is placing pharmacists in a very ethically challenging situation. I have filled prescriptions that are nearly a year old which I know the patient no longer needs. They are only filling it now because the customer wants the incentives. I know patients who are going to the doctors unnecessarily to get a prescription for medications they do not need. Most of these customers who do this are on social assistance and on Native Indian Health Benefits. This is putting unnecessary burden on doctors because these are not legitimate visits rather visits motivated by the incentives. Patients that really need to visit the doctors for legitimate reasons then will possibly encounter longer waits. Additionally, tax payers money is paying for these unnecessary doctors visits and for these unnecessary medications. At Shoppers Drug Mart, patients receive points for their prescriptions. Incentives, in general influence the filling patterns of patients. Patients may fill prescriptions early or late to get incentives at the detriment of their health. Patients should be filling their prescriptions at a pharmacy with which they have a good relationship with the pharmacist and not based on incentives. I hope British Columbia will ban loyalty programs (Safeway has Air Miles) like the province of Ontario. Please consider banning loyalty programs by pharmacies as they are costly to the province and taxpayers and are detrimental to patients' health.

Sincerely,

Concerned Pharmacist