Specialty Tier Reform Update – Week of December 15, 2014

By Mark Hobraczk, JD, MPA

STATES

Kentucky

New bill would limit specialty tier coinsurance for highest-cost drugs

Rep. James Kay (D) pre-filed legislation this week that would limit cost-sharing for prescription drugs placed on a specialty tier to no more than $100 per month for up to a 30-day supply or $200 per month in the aggregate. Similar to bills in other states, H.B. 99 also would allow subscribers to request an exception to the tiered cost-sharing structure. However, it also explicitly would prohibit insurers from placing all drugs of the same class within a specialty tier, a practice that has been the subject of discrimination complaints in states like Florida and Illinois (see Health Reform Update for Week of December 1st).

The measure is very similar to H.B. 578 that failed to move last session (see Specialty Tier Reform Update for Week of March 3rd). PSI Government Relations testified in support of both bills, which will be considered after the new session begins next month.