



Specialty Tier Reform Update – Week of November 30, 2015

By Mark Hobracsck, JD, MPA

STATES

District of Columbia

Committee holds hearing on bill to limit cost-sharing for specialty drugs

PSI Government Relations and other consumer groups testified last month before the Committee on Business, Consumer, and Regulatory Affairs in support of the Specialty Drug Copayment Limitation Act of 2015 (B21-0032).

The measure introduced earlier this year by councilmembers Mary Cheh (D) and Anita Bonds (D) would limit cost-sharing for specialty drugs to \$150 per month for up to a 30-day supply (see Specialty Tier Reform Update for Week of January 19th). It would also allow a health plan to request that a non-preferred drug be covered under the cost-sharing for preferred drugs, if the prescribing physician determines that the preferred drug (for the same condition) would not be as effective or would have adverse effects for the individual.

Massachusetts

Committee debates measure to limit cost-sharing for prescription drugs

The Joint Committee on Financial Services held a November 17th hearing on S.B. 541, which would limit pre-deductible cost-sharing for prescription drugs to \$100 per 30-day supply and prohibit insurers from placing all drugs in a given class on the highest cost-sharing tier in a tiered formulary. The measure was introduced last spring by Senator Anthony Petrucci (D).