SENATE BILL No. 244

By Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

2-12

AN ACT concerning insurance; relating to the regulation of pharmacy benefits managers; providing for enhanced oversight thereof; requiring licensure rather than registration of such entities; amending K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3821, 40-3822, 40-3823, 40-3824, 40-3825, 40-3826, 40-3827, 40-3829 and 40-3830 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) A pharmacy benefits manager's license may be revoked, suspended or limited, the licensee may be censured or placed under probationary conditions or an application for a license or for reinstatement of a license may be denied upon a finding that:

- (1) The applicant or licensee committed fraud or misrepresentation in applying for or securing an original, renewal or reinstated license;
- (2) the licensee has violated any lawful rule or regulation promulgated by the commissioner or violated any lawful order or directive of the commissioner previously entered by the commissioner;
- (3) the PBM has engaged in fraudulent activity that constitutes a violation of state or federal law;
- (4) the commissioner has received consumer complaints that justify an action under this section to protect the safety and interest of consumers;
- (5) the licensee has failed to furnish the commissioner, or the commissioner's investigators or representatives, any information legally requested by the commissioner;
- (6) the PBM has been determined by the commissioner to be in violation of or noncompliance with state or federal law; or
- (7) the PBM has failed to timely submit a renewal application and the information required under K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3824, and amendments thereto. In lieu of a denial of a renewal application, the commissioner may permit the PBM to submit to the commissioner a corrective action plan to correct or cure any deficiencies.
- (b) A PBM, pharmacy services administration organization or any person acting for, or on behalf of, a PBM or pharmacy services administration organization shall not cancel any contract with a pharmacy or pharmacist, sue for breach of contract, use the decision to decline as a cause for not renewing the contract or retaliate against or penalize the pharmacy or pharmacist in any way for providing any information

requested by the commissioner in relation to any complaint or concern under this section.

- (c) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to article 38 of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.
- New Sec. 2. (a) In addition to any fines or other penalties that the commissioner may establish through rules and regulations, the commissioner may enforce the provisions of this act as provided by K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-2405 through 40-2408 and 40-2411, and amendments thereto.
- (b) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to article 38 of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.
- New Sec. 3. (a) On and after July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, each PBM shall submit to the commissioner a transparency report containing data from the prior calendar year as it pertains to covered entities and plan sponsors doing business in Kansas. The report shall contain information required by, and be in a format provided by, the commissioner.
- (b) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to article 38 of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.
- New Sec. 4. (a) Any pharmacy that has a contract or pharmacist who has a contract, either directly or indirectly through a pharmacy services administration organization, with a PBM administering any type of drug or pharmacy benefit plan to provide covered drugs, devices or services at a contractual reimbursement rate may decline to provide a covered drug, device or service if the pharmacy or pharmacist is currently reimbursed or will be reimbursed at less than the acquisition cost for the covered drug, device or service.
- (b) If the pharmacy or pharmacist declines to provide the drug, device or service as authorized in subsection (a), then the pharmacy or pharmacist may provide the customer with adequate information for the customer to determine where the prescription for the drug, device or service may be filled, or the pharmacy or pharmacist may communicate with the patient's prescriber at the request of the patient to identify alternative treatment options.
- (c) A PBM, pharmacy services administration organization or any person acting for, or on behalf of, a PBM or pharmacy services administration organization shall not cancel any contract with a pharmacy or pharmacist, sue for breach of contract, use the decision to decline as a cause for not renewing the contract or retaliate against or penalize the pharmacy or pharmacist in any way for exercising the pharmacy's or pharmacist's rights under this section.
- (d) (1) A PBM shall not reimburse a pharmacy or pharmacist in the state an amount less than the amount that the pharmacy benefits manager

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reimburses a pharmacy benefits manager affiliate for providing the same pharmacist services.

- (2) The amount shall be calculated on a per-unit basis based on the same generic product identifier or generic code number.
- (e) (1) A PBM shall not make or permit any reduction of payment for pharmacist services by a pharmacy benefits manager or a healthcare insurer directly or indirectly to a pharmacy under a reconciliation process to an effective rate of reimbursement, including without limitation generic effective rates, brand effective rates, direct and indirect remuneration fees or any other reduction or aggregate reduction of payment; or
- (2) A PBM shall not adjust a claim or aggregate of claims for pharmacist services directly or indirectly retroactively denied or reduced after adjudication of the claim or aggregate of claims unless:
 - (A) The original claim was submitted fraudulently;
- the original claim payment was incorrect because the pharmacy (B) or pharmacist had already been paid for the pharmacist services; or
- (C) the pharmacist services were not properly rendered by the pharmacy or pharmacist.
- (f) A PBM, or representative of a PBM, shall not cause or knowingly permit the use of advertisement, promotion, solicitation, representation, proposal or offer that is untrue, deceptive or misleading to patients or the general public regarding access to pharmacies in a pharmacy network.
- (g) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to article 38 of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.
- Sec. 5. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3821 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-3821. (a) K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3821 through 40-3828 and sections 1 through 4, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the pharmacy benefits manager-registration licensure act.
- (b) On and after January 1, 2022, a person shall not perform, act or do business in this state as a PBM unless such person has a valid license issued by the commissioner pursuant to this act.
- (c) This act shall apply to any pharmacy benefits manager PBM that provides claims processing services, other prescription drug or device services, or both, to covered persons who are residents of this state.
- (e)(d) This act shall not apply to any pharmacy benefits manager PBM that holds a certificate of registration as an administrator pursuant to K.S.A. 40-3810, and amendments thereto.
- 39 (e) A license issued in accordance with this act shall be 40 nontransferable.
- 41 Sec. 6. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3822 is hereby amended to read as 42 follows: 40-3822. For purposes of this act: 43
 - (a) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of insurance as defined

 by K.S.A. 40-102, and amendments thereto.

- (b) (1) "Covered entity" means:
- (A) A nonprofit hospital or medical service corporation, health insurer, health benefit plan or health maintenance organization; or
- (B) a health program administered by a department or the state in the eapacity of provider of health coverage; or
- (C)—an employer, labor union or other group of persons organized in the state that provides health coverage to covered individuals who are employed or reside in the state.
 - (2) "Covered entity-shall" does not include any:
- (A) Self-funded plan that is exempt from state regulation pursuant to ERISA;
 - (B)—Plan issued for coverage for federal employees; or
- (C) (B) health plan that provides coverage only for accidental injury, specified disease, hospital indemnity, medicare supplement, disability income, long-term care or other limited benefit health insurance policies and contracts.
- (c) "Covered person" means a member, policyholder, subscriber, enrollee, beneficiary, dependent or other individual participating in a health benefit plan.
 - (d) "Department" means the insurance department.
- (e) "Health benefit plan" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 40-4602, and amendments thereto.
- (f) "Health insurer" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 40-4602, and amendments thereto.
- (g) "Maximum allowable cost" or "MAC" means any term or methodology that a pharmacy benefits manager or a healthcare insurer may use to establish the maximum amount that a pharmacy benefits manager will reimburse a pharmacy or a pharmacist for pharmacist services.
 - (h) "Pharmacy benefits management" means:
- (1) Any of the following services provided with regard to the administration of the following pharmacy benefits:
 - (A) Mail service pharmacy;
- (B) claims processing, retail network management and payment of claims to pharmacies for prescription drugs dispensed to covered individuals;
 - (C) clinical formulary development and management services;
 - (D) rebate contracting and administration;
- (E) certain patient compliance, therapeutic intervention and generic substitution programs; or
- 42 (F) disease management programs involving prescription drug 43 utilization; and

(2) (A) the procurement of prescription drugs by a prescription benefits manager at a negotiated rate for dispensation to covered individuals within this state; or

- (B) the administration or management of prescription drug benefits provided by a covered insurance entity for the benefit of covered individuals.
- (e)(i) "Pharmacy benefits manager" or "PBM" means a person, business or other entity that performs pharmacy benefits management. "Pharmacy benefits manager" includes any person or entity acting in a contractual or employment relationship for a pharmacy benefits manager in the performance of pharmacy benefits management for a covered entity. The term-"Pharmacy benefits manager" shall or "PBM"does not include a covered insurance entity.
- $\frac{f}{j}$ "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, organization or other business entity.
- Sec. 7. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3823 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-3823. Registration requirement Requirements to act as a pharmacy benefits manager.
- (a) No person shall act or operate as a pharmacy benefits manager *PBM* without first obtaining a valid certificate of registration *license* issued by the commissioner.
- (b) Each person seeking a certificate of registration license to act as a pharmacy benefits manager PBM shall file with the commissioner an application for a certificate of registration license upon a form to be furnished by the commissioner. At a minimum, the application form shall include the following information:
 - (1) The name, address and telephone number of the PBM.
- (2) The name, address, official position and professional qualifications of each individual who is responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the pharmacy benefits manager PBM, including all members of the board of directors, board of trustees, executive committee, other governing board or committee, the principal officers in the case of a corporation, the partners or members in the case of a partnership or association and any other person who exercises control or influence over the affairs of the pharmacy benefits manager PBM.
- $\frac{(2)}{(3)}$ The name and address of the applicant's agent for service of process in the state.
- (4) The name, address, phone number, email address, official position and professional qualifications of each person responsible for setting MAC prices, including all persons with authority to modify MAC prices in response to MAC appeals.
 - (3)(5) A nonrefundable application fee of \$140 \$2,500.
 - (c) (1) Upon receipt of an application, the commissioner may require

additional documentation or information necessary to verify the information contained in the application. Within 30 days of receiving an application, the commissioner may request additional information or submissions from an applicant for licensure and shall obtain any document or information reasonably necessary to verify the information contained in the application.

- (2) Within 90 days after receipt of a completed application, the network adequacy report and the applicable license fee, the commissioner shall review the application and issue a license if the applicant is deemed qualified under this section. If the commissioner determines the applicant is not qualified, the commissioner shall notify the applicant and shall specify the reason for the denial.
- Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3824 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-3824. (a) Each pharmacy benefits manager-registration *license* shall expire on March 31 each year and may be renewed annually on the request of the-registrant *licensee*. The application for renewal shall be submitted on a form furnished by the commissioner and accompanied by a renewal fee of-\$140 \$2,500. The application for renewal shall be in such form and contain such matters as the commissioner prescribes.
- (b) If a-registration *license* renewal fee is not paid by the prescribed date, the amount of the fee, plus a penalty fee of \$140 \$2,500 shall be paid. The pharmacy benefits manager-registration *license* may be revoked or suspended by the commissioner until the renewal fee and any penalty assessed has been paid.
- (c) Any person who performs or is performing any pharmacy benefits management service on the effective date of this act must obtain a certificate of registration shall be required to obtain a license as a pharmacy benefits manager from the commissioner within 90 days after the effective date of this act by January 1, 2022, in order to continue to do business in Kansas.
- Sec. 9. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3825 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-3825. In accordance with the provisions of the rules and regulations filing act, K.S.A. 77-415 et seq., and amendments thereto, (a) The commissioner may adopt, amend and revoke rules and regulations governing the administration and enforcement of this act, including, but not limited to:
 - $\frac{\text{(a)}(1)}{\text{(a)}}$ The content of the application form;
- $\frac{\text{(b)}(2)}{\text{(b)}}$ the content of any other form or report required to implement this act; and
- (e)(3) such other rules and regulations as the commissioner may deem necessary to-carry out implement and administer the provisions of this act.
- (b) The commissioner shall adopt, amend and revoke all such necessary rules and regulations not later than July 1, 2022.

Sec. 10. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3826 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-3826. Any person who acts as a pharmacy benefits manager *PBM* without being registered licensed as required by this act shall be subject to a fine of \$500 for each \$5,000 for the period that the *PBM* is found to be in violation.

- (b) If a PBM is found to be in violation of or noncompliant with any state or federal law, the PBM shall be subject to a fine of \$5,000 per violation and \$5,000 per occurrence of noncompliance.
- Sec. 11. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3827 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-3827. (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury the pharmacy benefits manager licensure fund. Such fund shall be administered by the commissioner for costs related to administering the pharmacy benefits manager licensing act. All expenditures from the pharmacy benefits manager licensure fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the commissioner or by the commissioner's designee.
- (b) The commissioner shall remit all moneys received by or for the commissioner under the provisions of this act to the state treasurer-at least monthly in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount thereof in the state treasury and such amount shall be credited to the pharmacy benefits manager registration licensure fund.
- Sec. 12. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3829 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-3829. As used in this act K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3829 and 40-3830, and amendments thereto:
- (a) "List" means the list of drugs for which maximum allowable costs have been established:
- (b) "Maximum allowable cost" or "MAC" means the maximum-amount that a pharmacy benefits manager will reimburse a pharmacy for the cost of a generic drug "Maximum allowable cost list" or "MAC list" means a listing of drugs or other methodology used by a pharmacy benefits manager, directly or indirectly, that sets the maximum allowable payment to a pharmacy or pharmacist for a generic drug, brand-name drug, biologic product or other prescription drug;
- (e)(b) "network pharmacy" means a pharmacy that contracts with a pharmacy benefits manager; and
- (d)(c) "pharmacy benefits manager" or "PBM"-shall have the same meaning as means the same as defined in K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3822(e), and amendments thereto;
- (d) "pharmaceutical wholesaler" means a person or entity that sells and distributes prescription pharmaceutical products, including, without

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limitation, a full line of brand-name, generic and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, and that offers regular and private delivery to a pharmacy;

- (e) "pharmacist services" means products, goods or services provided as a part of the practice of pharmacy in Kansas;
- (f) "pharmacy acquisition cost" means the amount that a pharmaceutical wholesaler charges for a pharmaceutical product as listed on the pharmacy's billing invoice;
- (g) "pharmacy benefits manager affiliate" means a pharmacy or pharmacist that directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, owns or controls, is owned or controlled by or is under common ownership or control with a pharmacy benefits manager; and
- (h) "pharmacy benefits plan or program" means a plan or program that pays for, reimburses, covers the cost of or otherwise provides for pharmacist services to individuals who reside in or are employed in this state.
- Sec. 13. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3830 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-3830. A pharmacy benefits manager *shall*:
- (a) Not pay or reimburse a pharmacy or pharmacist for the ingredient drug product component of pharmacist services in an amount less than the pharmacy's acquisition cost;
- (a) Shall(b) not place a drug on a MAC list unless there are at least two therapeutically equivalent multi-source generic drugs, or at least one generic drug available from at least one manufacturer, generally available for purchase by network pharmacies from national or regional wholesalers and the *national drug code*, NDC, for the drug is not obsolete.
- (b) Shall(c) provide to each network pharmacy at the beginning of the term of a contract and upon request thereafter, the sources utilized to determine the maximum allowable cost price;
- (c) Shall provide a process for each network pharmacy provider to readily access the maximum allowable price specific to that provider.(d) upon request of a network pharmacy, disclose the sources utilized for setting MAC price rates on each MAC price list included under the contract and identify each MAC price list for each plan sponsor and pharmacy network rate schedule that applies to the network pharmacy. A PBM shall make the list of the maximum allowable costs available in its entirety in a readily accessible format to all contracted pharmacies;
- (d) Shall(e) review and update each applicable maximum allowable cost list every seven—business calendar days, noting any price changes from the previous list, provide a means by which network pharmacies may promptly review current prices in an electronic, print or telephonic format and apply the updates to reimbursements—no not later than one business day at no cost to the pharmacy. Such information shall be available to the

pharmacy or the pharmacy's representative in a comprehensive, downloadable format that includes all national drug codes, the unit MAC price allowed and an identifying code connecting fee schedules and patients to the respective MAC list used to price claims for reimbursement:

- (f) ensure that the MAC prices are not set below sources utilized by the PBM;
- (e) Shall(g) ensure that dispensing fees are not included in the calculation of maximum allowable cost.;
- (f) Shall(h) establish-a process an administrative appeal procedure by which a network pharmacy may-appeal reimbursement challenge MAC and reimbursements made under MAC for a specific drug or drugs subject to maximum allowable cost as follows MAC as:
 - (1) Not meeting the requirements of this section; or
 - (2) being below the pharmacy acquisition cost.
 - (i) The administrative appeal procedure shall include the following:
- (1) A dedicated telephone number and email address or website for the purpose of submitting administrative appeals; and
- (2) the ability to submit an administrative appeal directly to the pharmacy benefits manager regarding the pharmacy benefits plan or program or through a pharmacy service administrative organization.
- *(j)* The network pharmacy-must *shall* file an appeal-no *not* later than 15 business days after the fill date.
 - (k) The PBM shall:
- (1) Only request the following information for determining a MAC administrative appeal:
 - (A) The prescription number;
 - (B) the patient's name;
 - (C) the national drug code used during the filing of the claim;
 - (D) the quantity of medication;
 - (E) the reimbursement amount;
 - (F) the pharmacy acquisition cost; and
- (2) The PBM shall provide a response to the appealing network pharmacy no later than 10 seven business days after receiving an appeal request containing information sufficient for the PBM to process the appeal as specified by the contract.
 - $\frac{(3)}{(A)}$ If the appeal is upheld, the PBM:
- (A)(i) Shall make the adjustment in the drug price effective no later than one business day after the appeal is resolved and allow the pharmacy to reverse and reprocess the claim for the appropriate reimbursement amount:
- (B)(ii) shall make the adjustment applicable to all similarly situated network pharmacy providers, as determined by the plan sponsor or

pharmacy benefits manager, as appropriate; and

- (C)(iii) permit the appealing pharmacy to reverse and rebill the appealed claim-waive timely filing requirements to allow all affected pharmacies to reverse and reprocess claims to comply with this paragraph; and
- (iv) provide the NDC number that the increase or change is based on to the pharmacy or pharmacist.
 - (4)(B) If the appeal is denied, the PBM shall provide:
- (i) The appealing pharmacy the specific sources utilized for setting the maximum allowable cost, including the national drug code number from a national or regional wholesaler operating in Kansas where the drug is generally available for purchase at a price equal to or less than the maximum allowable cost, and when applicable, may be substituted lawfully; and
- (ii) the appealing pharmacy or pharmacist the national drug code number and the name of the national or regional pharmaceutical wholesalers operating in Kansas that have the drug currently in stock at a price below the MAC list, or if the national drug code number provided by the PBM is not available below the pharmacy acquisition cost from the pharmaceutical wholesaler from whom the pharmacy or pharmacist purchases the majority of prescription drugs for resale, then the PBM shall adjust the MAC list at an amount equal to or above the challenging pharmacy's pharmacy acquisition cost and permit the pharmacy to reverse and rebill each claim affected by the inability to procure the drug at a cost that is equal to or less than the previously challenged MAC.
- (l) This section shall apply to the PBM for the state healthcare benefits program.
- Sec. 14. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-3821, 40-3822, 40-3823, 40-3824, 40-3825, 40-3826, 40-3827, 40-3829 and 40-3830 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 15. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.