



Pro-Active Solutions for the Opioid Epidemic

The opioid epidemic has extended well into the workers' compensation industry with annual spend on narcotic medications now exceeding \$1.5 billion. Per a recent WCRI study, up to 80% of injured workers with non-surgical lost time cases are prescribed a narcotic medication during the treatment of their work related injury. Due to the highly addictive nature of these medications, an increasing number of injured workers may develop issues of abuse and misuse of opioids.

Sources: CompPharma, WCRI June 2016

A New and Better Approach

Specialty Solutions Rx is a full service PBM that was designed to proactively and effectively address opioids and other high risk medications head on. The program offers a national retail pharmacy network of over 68,000 pharmacies as well as access to a workers' compensation specialty pharmacy.

We work with clients to identify injured workers that are in a high risk category and who will benefit dramatically from a collaborative and consultative approach through the use of a workers' compensation specialty pharmacy.

"The dispensing pharmacists at the workers' compensation specialty pharmacy are focused on assisting injured workers and prescribing physicians with the safe and appropriate treatment of the injured worker's pain. They provide this collaborative approach by educating injured workers on the adverse effects of opioid medications and discussing proper treatment plans with the prescribing physicians. These interventions happen real time, prior to dispensing the medication," said Mike Cirillo, Managing Director.

The workers' compensation specialty pharmacy has access to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) on a national basis. As such, these dispensing pharmacists have the unique ability to provide pro-active pharmacy care management by looking up each of their patients through the PDMP system to determine high risk situations and more importantly, act on the information prior to dispensing the medication.

"This is an innovative approach. Most PBMs are doing work to identify high risk situations, but often times it occurs well after the injured worker has fallen to the addictive nature of an opioid medication. The Specialty Solutions Rx approach is prospective and action oriented. Use of a dedicated workers' compensation specialty pharmacy ensures that the pharmacists focus on the specific needs of the injured worker to drive better and safer outcomes. This approach will change the industry," said Cirillo.

To learn more, please contact Mike Cirillo at mcirillo@SpecialtySolutionsRx.com