

THE TRUSTEE

March 2018

IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING" – ROSEANNE ROSANADANA

Updates: For members who have prescriptions with CanaRx, the following directive has been issued re: **Patient Identification Requirement:**

Please be advised that, effective immediately, all Canadian pharmacies now require a photo ID on file prior to dispensing medications. As in the U.S., it is common practice for the pharmacy to request identification during a patient's first visit. As stated, this change will be immediately applied to all orders being filled by Canadian pharmacies and may be applied to all pharmacies in the future. CanaRx will be contacting patients currently receiving medications from Canadian pharmacies to ensure there is no interruption with any orders.

To satisfy the requirement, a copy of your driver's license should suffice. To easily send your license with photo:

1. Use your cell phone to take a picture of your driver's license.
 2. Email it to: ID@CanaRx.com. Note the group-**Kingston Trust Fund**.
- If you don't have a smart phone, ask someone to take the pix and mail.

It appears this is all about politics and money. Big Pharma is upset with the loss of revenue when prescriptions are filled outside of the U.S. Recently, Canadian pharmacies were forced to require a face-to-face meeting with the patient before completing prescription for 20 specific drugs. As most were highly priced drugs, only one of our members (one too many) was affected. CanaRx is working through another Tier I country's pharmacy to secure availability. The call for a photo ID may be presented under the guise of safety, but it appears to be more about politics, money, and power.

Locally, both Trust and Ulster County Government members have been frustrated by a local provider group where their administration has disallowed the writing of any paper prescriptions. This is presented under the guise that NYS law requires only electronic prescriptions. The NYS Public Health Law 281, dated March 27, 2016, lists "Electronic Prescribing Exceptions-Dispensing Clarification for Pharmacists", and states that "A pharmacist is NOT required to verify that a practitioner has a waiver from the requirement to electronically prescribe, or properly falls under one of the other exceptions from the requirement to electronically prescribe." Among the exceptions listed in the Public Health Law is the clarification that "there are a number of exceptions in which a practitioner may issue an Official New York State prescription (ONYSRx) form, oral prescription, or a fax of an ONYSRx." One exception is if the prescription is "to be dispensed by a pharmacy outside the state." The reason for refusing to obey the law and to not do what's in the best interest of the patient speaks loudly of the probable influence of Big Pharma.

Many of Rite Aid stores have been acquired by Walgreens. If you have a pharmacy account at one of those Rite Aids, you should receive a notice and, perhaps, a call. Be sure to notify your providers of the change when they order a short term prescription.

At times, the Trust receives calls from members regarding the lateness of their mail order prescriptions. In most cases, when the order is tracked, it's the fact that the provider delayed placing the order. So, perhaps check with your provider and ask when they placed your prescription order.

Both ProAct and CanaRx are superior pharmacy benefit managers when compared to previous carriers. They are attentive and responsive to concerns and provide excellent services for the Trust and our members through account managers dedicated to our plan.

If members have children covered by the Trust plan who are living out of area, it would be helpful to review the plan benefits with them. At times, they may be unsure as to benefits provided and covered. Pre-certification of some services, extended visits, pay first and submit for reimbursement benefits, and primary vs. secondary coverage are important understandings. On the Trust website, www.kfttrustfund.com, members can access "At A Glance," a summary of plan benefits that is easy to understand. Its only two pages and can be downloaded for your dependents. As always, if there are any concerns, please contact the Trust.