
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

TO: **CATOOSA COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS**
FROM: **LORA OGDEN**
SUBJECT: **CLINIC CHANGES REALTED TO DISPENSING OF MEDICATIONS**
DATE: **01/04/2022**

CLINIC/PHARAMACY CHANGES 1/1/2023

New legislation enacted by Georgia legislature and outlined in O.C.G.A. section 43-34-23 prohibits the mid-level dispensing of prescription medications by physician assistants and registered professional nurses.

- O.C.G.A. 43-34-23 (a)(6)
The authority to dispense prescription medications may be delegated to a physician assistant or a registered professional nurse **only** where the medications and care are provided to patients through a public health department or tax-exempt organization (not a private or employer-sponsored health center, including one that benefits the employees of a municipality), at no cost, or on a sliding scale fee that is based on the patient's ability to pay.

We still want to be able to offer a prescription benefit to our employees and will make the following changes to the procedures to still be able to provide our current formulary (list of prescription drugs) to our employees at no cost to the employee.

- Medications will no longer be dispensed at the clinic but will be available in the following manner:
 - For acute medications, such as antibiotics, the employee will be given a card that will allow them to use at the pharmacy of their choice to receive the medication at **no cost**.
 - For maintenance medications (that employees take for long-term or chronic conditions) a mail-order program will be available so that the medications can be shipped directly to the employee's home at **no cost**.
 - The clinic will transfer current prescriptions to the home delivery program at the request of the employee.
 - Employees who prefer to get their 90 supply of maintenance medications at a retail pharmacy and not through mail-order will be able to make that choice.
- A Patient Portal will be available for employees at app.saverx.com to order and track their prescriptions.
 - A "quick refill" option will make it easy for employees to get their refill requests processed simply and quickly.
 - Employees can track their prescriptions.

AS Meds (our current pharmaceutical provider) will be managing this program.

- We will no longer stock medications at the clinic and will only be charged for medication as it is dispensed.
 - All medications currently in stock will be returned to AS Meds and we will be credited for that inventory.
- The medications to be provided at no cost will be those on our current formulary that the clinic is dispensing. (That formulary can be found by scanning the QR code on the attached fliers).
 - Other medications will be filled at a retail pharmacy in accordance with our UHC policy and copays will be assessed in accordance with our current plan.

Lora Ogden
HR Director