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July 27, 2011

Montana Medicaid Issues Notice (attached) – Dispensing fees to be reduced

We have received notice from Montana Medicaid that **effective August 1, 2011**, in-state pharmacy provider dispensing fees will be reduced. The Montana Pharmacy Association opposed the reduction of the drug reimbursement fee and submitted official comments to Montana Medicaid on June 22nd in response to the change called for in administrative rule notice 37.86.1105. It should be noted that pharmacy is not the only profession being impacted by fees reductions as Montana Medicaid has also reduced the reimbursement rates for other provider groups including physicians.

The attached notice from Montana Medicaid explains that in state fiscal year 2010, a 2% provider rate increase was implemented with one-time-only funding appropriated by the 61st Legislative Session in 2009. This one-time-only funding was not included in the budget base for State fiscal year 2012, and the funds were not appropriated by the current 62nd Legislative Session. As a result, the current dispensing fee of \$5.04 will be reduced to \$4.94 effective August 1, 2011.

For more information on this issue see the attached notice or contact Amy Holodnick, Pharmacy Program Officer, at (406) 444-2738 or aholodnick@mt.gov.