

CVS to Leave TRICARE Pharmacy Network

September 30, 2016

TRICARE pharmacy contractor Express Scripts, Inc., announced today that CVS pharmacies, including those in Target stores, will no longer process prescriptions for TRICARE as of Dec. 1, 2016.

The good news is that Walgreens pharmacies will return to the TRICARE network on Dec. 1.

You may recall Walgreens left the TRICARE network in 2011 after Walgreens declined to accept TRICARE payment levels.

After experiencing drops in store revenue, Walgreens had a change of heart and has agreed to accept TRICARE payments.

Now it's CVS that's balking over the same issue, and TRICARE's answer is the same as it was previously for Walgreen's - pharmacies that don't agree to the TRICARE payment can't be in the TRICARE network.

The return of Walgreens means the TRICARE network will still include 57,000 retail pharmacies, and 98 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries will have a network pharmacy within five miles of home.

Beneficiaries who have been using CVS will be notified about how they can transfer their prescriptions to a nearby network pharmacy. Those who use certain specialty drugs will receive additional assistance.

If beneficiaries chose to fill a prescription at CVS after Dec. 1, it will be a non-network pharmacy. This means they will have to pay the full cost of the medication upfront, and file for partial reimbursement from TRICARE.