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Subject: Pharmacy Fee schedule

To: <[mro@azica.gov](mailto:mro@azica.gov)>

I am asking you to protect patient choice and ensure that Arizonans have quality prescription care by not changing the current fee schedule.

I live in a rural unincorporated mining town in S. Eastern AZ and our only pharmacy does not take my worker's comp insurance. I used to have to drive 2 hrs round trip just to try to pick up my prescriptions. I had so many problems with pharmacies either not filling my prescriptions on time, not keeping my medications in stock, or insurance authorizations. Every month there was a problem with one or more prescriptions and I would have to call my pain doctor and my attorney, wait, and hope that it would be filled. On several occasions I ran out of medication because the pharmacy did not fill my prescription on time. There were 2 months in a row that I had no medication for over 2 weeks after Walgreens said they would no longer stock my medication. They said they would only order it as needed, but it wasn't ordered twice, and when it was finally ordered it took a week because my closest Walgreens (Safford, AZ) is rural. Not taking or abruptly stopping opioid and nerve pain medication that you've been taking for years is dangerous, not to mention having your daily pain increase to irretractable pain with no way to stop it. Pain patients can't go to an E.R. because our prescription wasn't filled for some reason because we have pain doctors, opioid contracts and carefully monitored prescriptions.

My attorney put me in touch with IWP about 7 years ago and I no longer have to worry about whether my prescriptions were filled or having to drive 2 hrs to pick them up. I get a notice from IWP within hours of seeing my doctor and they arrive at my door within a week.

I have been going out of town to pain mgmt doctors for 20 years, I am on disability, I do everything asked of me by my doctors, have done random UA's for Workmen's Comp for years, and I do not want to go back to the days of fighting to get my prescriptions filled.

Injured or disabled people on Workmen's Comp do not need the added stress and pain of not having our prescriptions filled properly, or being treated in an undignified manner by some (not all) pharmacy staff.

IWP is specifically for injured workers, unlike any pharmacies I've seen in Arizona. The staff are professional, respectful, and knowledgeable about individual pain conditions, and the medications used to treat those conditions.