

Professional dispensing fee allowance for pharmacies

Frequently asked questions

Why did our pharmacy receive a large payment on December 29, 2023, remittance advice?

In compliance with the Settlement Agreement in the case of *National Association of Chain Drug Stores, et al., v. Health Care Authority* (Washington State Court of Appeals No. 51489-3-II), the Health Care Authority (HCA) updated the professional dispensing fees for pharmacies and began issuing adjusted dispensing fee payments December 29, 2023.

Do pharmacies need to resubmit claims for updated payment?

No. HCA began issuing adjusted dispensing fee payments on the December 29th remittance advice for pharmacy claims submitted between April 1, 2017, to June 30, 2023. For claims submitted on or after July 1, 2023, HCA will provide additional guidance soon. **Do not resubmit or reprocess claims for updated dispensing fee payment.**

What if there was a change in pharmacy ownership or the pharmacy closed between April 2017 through June 2023?

The pharmacy must complete a [Pharmacy Ownership Verification Form \(13-0015\)](#). The form can be found on HCA's [Forms & Publications](#) webpage.

How does HCA determine professional dispensing fees?

A provider's professional dispensing fee is determined by the volume of prescriptions the pharmacy dispenses for all customers, not just Apple Health (Medicaid) clients. HCA determines this volume based on responses received to the annual prescription count survey.

What are HCA's new professional dispensing fees?

Pharmacy Type	Amount	Professional Dispensing Fee
High-volume pharmacies	70,000 or more claims per year	\$9.80 per claim
Mid-volume pharmacies	30,000 – 69,999 claims per year	\$11.91 per claim
Low-volume pharmacies	Fewer than 30,000 claims per year	\$14.30 per claim
Unit dose systems	N/A	\$14.30 per claim

What if we have additional questions?

For additional questions, email AppleHealthPharmacyPolicy@hca.wa.gov