



3000 Falls Road, Suite 1
Baltimore, Maryland 21211
(855) 475-0990
www.evergreenmd.org

February 21, 2017

Representative Deborah Armstrong
New Mexico Capitol Building, Room 312B
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Health Plan coverage for OTC Emergency Contraception

Dear Representative Armstrong:

I am the CEO of Evergreen Health, Inc. a licensed HMO in Maryland which was the nation's first health plan to provide zero co-pay over the counter (OTC) emergency contraceptives (EC) without a prescription to our members under their Evergreen Health plan coverage.

Prior to June 2015, Evergreen Health provided coverage for OTC EC only with a prescription. When it came to our attention that the requirement that the member obtain a prescription in order to have coverage for the cost of EC under our plans and that such a requirement would cause both a delay in obtaining the medication and an increase in the member's cost due to the need for a physician's visit to obtain a prescription, Evergreen Health worked with our pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) to change the process.

In June 2015, we rescinded the health plan's rule that required a prescription and our PBM notified all pharmacies in the network of the change. Pharmacies were instructed to input their NPI to get the product to process. If the pharmacy does not have a NPI they can use, which is seldom the case, the member pays the retail price and submits a claim for reimbursement to our PBM. If a member buys an EC and submits a paper claim to our PBM we have implemented reimbursement at full retail cost with no cost share.

I hope this information is helpful as you consider legislation in New Mexico to provide such coverage for OTC EC in your state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Beilenson".

Peter Beilenson, M.D., MPH
President and CEO
Evergreen Health, Inc.