

# NPO Weekly Pharmacy Newsletter

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September 11, 2011

## **New MI State Tax on Paid Medical Claims**

A new 1 percent tax on paid health care claims that's designed to generate some \$1.2 billion in funding for the state Medicaid program is on its way to meet Gov. Rick Snyder's expected signature.

The Legislature today gave final approval to the tax, which is the biggest unfinished piece of the state budget that starts Oct. 1. It would be paid by health insurers, including self-funded employer plans, and third party administrators.

Health care providers such as the **Michigan Health & Hospital Association** and the **Michigan State Medical Society** had seen passage of the tax as vital to Medicaid and to protecting access to care and federal funds. They feared that without a replacement for the HMO use tax, hospitals and physicians would face steep cuts in Medicaid reimbursement rates

## **Medication Shortages**

The medication shortage crisis continues. Many different meds are unavailable, though this changes all the time. Currently generic Adderall 20mg Tablets are manufacturer backordered, along with generic Bactoban ointment, generic Skelaxin, any type of Sudafed 12 hour, as well as a long list of other meds. Abundantly available at this time are generic Medrol Dosepacks and both generic Dyazide and Maxzide.

## **Immunization Reminder**

I still see physicians who give their patients a Pneumovax immunization and send their patients to my pharmacy for a Zostavax the same day. These immunizations need to be spaced by four weeks (a new recommendation).

## **CMS Releases Final e-Prescribing Ruling**

In the Sept 6 edition of the Federal Register The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final rule for Medicare's electronic prescribing incentive program. If you are interested in reading it online, here is the link:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-09-06>