



The Rx Ohio Collaborative<sup>SM</sup>  
Suite 440  
700 Ackerman Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43202  
(800) 678-6559  
www.rxoc.org

Media contact: Joni Bentz Seal  
(614) 292-4405  
joni.seal@osumc.edu

## *Fact Sheet*

Oct. 30, 2009

### **Introduction**

The Rx Ohio Collaborative (RxOC) is an expanding benefit initiative for Ohio public sector employers to save money on prescription drug costs at both the organizational and consumer level.

The RxOC concept was formed in 2007 by an informal collaboration of four of Ohio's largest pharmacy benefit purchasers – The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS), The Ohio State University (OSU), School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS) and State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio), which collectively serve more than 400,000 Ohioans. These original participants anticipate a total savings of \$300 million in drug costs by 2011.

As the state's flagship land-grant institution, The Ohio State University is leading this effort to help Ohio public entities save money on their pharmacy benefit spending and to help reduce the budgetary requirements for these services, ultimately lessening the burden on the state's budget.

### **About the Collaborative**

The RxOC's primary goal is to maximize the number of Ohioans served through its joint pharmaceutical benefits pool. Through the RxOC, public sector employers of any size can obtain the same drug pricing as some of the largest public entities in Ohio, as well as obtain 100 percent of the same rebates from pharmaceutical companies while maintaining full control over their health plan architecture and administration.

Today, more than a dozen organizations and nearly 500,000 lives are affiliated with the collaborative, including the City of Fostoria, Columbus City Schools, Ohio University, Scioto County Schools, the State Highway Patrol Retirement System and Wright State University.

The more organizations that become members of the RxOC, the more cost-effective the plan becomes. Any Ohio public sector employer, such as cities, counties, school districts, colleges or universities or state or government agencies can participate.

The RxOC currently is housed at The Ohio State University Health Plan Inc. Through OSU Health Plan, the RxOC will benefit from the expertise of a number of OSU experts, including the College of Pharmacy, and other state colleges to provide personalized pharmaceutical advice and support for maximizing the overall effectiveness of drug therapies for RxOC members and physicians.

### **Future of the Collaborative**

OSU Health Plan has experience in Medication Therapy Management programs and is piloting targeted drug therapy assistance to OSU medical plan members with chronic conditions in consultation with their physician. Further research will help create a new model for future consulting services to other RxOC members to help them improve drug therapy outcomes while saving money.

To benefit RxOC members, OSU Health Plan is leading the collaborative in building a statewide advisory committee and its Institute for Pharmaceutical Outcomes, a think tank comprised of the best minds in the field.