
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: PHARMNET PHARMACY
DATE: 9/26/01

I met with Denise Pratt on 9/20/01 to discuss PharmNet, a prescription management, durable medical equipment, and delivery service based in Winona, MS. She and two other pharmacists started the company due to a need of prescription medication delivery service for citizens of rural Mississippi. The elderly are simply not able to get to the pharmacy to pick up medications and are sometimes without medications for days at a time. PharmNet also delivers diabetic supplies (glucometers to test their sugar, etc.) and respiratory supplies (oxygen, equipment for inhalers for lung disease, etc.).

PharmNet is currently delivering medications, diabetic supplies, and respiratory supplies in Attala, Carroll, Clay, Choctaw, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, and Webster counties. They service anyone who does not have access to a delivery service. They do not charge a prescription management fee or delivery service fee.

PharmNet has two programs they would like to discuss with you. The first program could potentially save the State of Mississippi \$226,261,161.00 a year if implemented in all 82 counties. The second program could possibly save \$150,000,000.00 a year.

Their drivers are pharmacy technicians who deliver medications monthly directly to the homes. They provide education and check to see if there have been medication changes during the month. If they have medications left from the previous month, they explore the reason medications were missed, improving compliance. If a medication is changed or they have medications left due to confusion and/or non-compliance, they take the new medications back to the pharmacy, preventing duplicate payment by Medicaid. When I worked for Home Health, I had many problems with the elderly in this area. An elderly person usually has several physicians and they have prescriptions from each. Sometimes medications are in a generic name and the patient may also have the same medication in a Trade name. Sometimes they are taking both because they don't know that it's the same medication. I had a patient to end up in an emergency room as a result of this very example. Drug interactions between medications from different physicians could also be avoided.

Currently, many out-of-state companies are supplying diabetic and respiratory supplies to Mississippi citizens. These supplies are supplied through the mail and there is not a resource for the elderly other than a phone contact. Using in-state providers could pull money back into the state and put help directly in the homes.

She said that one of their programs could be offered to State Employees. I think this might be something that could save money and improve quality of life for our elderly population, especially in the rural areas. If you have any questions, let me know. Thanks!