

Three bright green apples are arranged on a white surface. One apple is in the foreground, slightly to the right, and is the largest. Two other apples are behind it, one to the left and one to the right, both slightly smaller and partially obscured. The apples have a smooth, glossy texture and a small brown stem at the top. The background is plain white.

Massachusetts Prescription Drug Legislation

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Health Care For All: Who We Are

- **We Organize and Lead Policy Coalitions**
 - Affordable Care Today (ACT!!)
 - Private Market Consumer Network
 - Children's Health Access Coalition
 - Racial & Ethnic Health Disparities Action Network
 - Oral Health Advocacy Task Force
 - Consumer Quality Coalition
- **We Help Consumers Directly**
 - Consumer Helpline (telephone/email), Outreach & Enrollment, Health Law Advocates
- **We Communicate to Inform Everyone**
 - www.hcfama.org, Email Updates, Blog (blog.hcfama.org)



MA Prescription Drug Cost Legislation

“Consumer-Driven Cost Control Agenda”

- Filed By Senator Montigny and Representative Marzilli: January 2007
- 17 proposals in total
 - 5 relate to prescription drugs
- For more information, visit blog.hcfama.org



MA Prescription Drug Cost Legislation

Rx Drug Provisions:

- Directs EOHHS to develop a common evidence-based formulary for state programs.
- Establishes an academic “counter detailing” program in DPH to outreach to practitioners that participate in MA public programs.
- Bans the sale or transfer of prescriber information.



MA Prescription Drug Cost Legislation

Rx Drug Provisions (cont'd):

- Bans gifts, meals, free samples, etc to health care practitioners and facilities and requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly report significant marketing expenses.
- Prohibits insurers from charging co-pays or coinsurance for chronic and preventive health care (including medications and immunizations).



Why Now?

The Legislation Achieves 2 HCFA Goals:

- **Cost control**
 - High costs affect the uninsured and the insured.
 - Cost control is necessary for the success of health care reform.
 - The cost of prescription drugs threaten drug coverage.
- **Quality of care**



Next Steps?

A New Campaign?

- Early planning stages
- Hoping to organize a coalition
 - Unions, other advocates, plans
- Possible Initiatives:
 - Legislation
 - Voluntary Institutional Change
 - Change through Payer Policies



More information ...

- www.hcfama.org – bill text, summaries, etc
- *Health Access Update* – email list for updates on issues related to health access in MA. Sign up at www.hcfama.org
- blog.hcfama.org – latest news and rumors

