

NCPA Statement on CVS Caremark-Aetna Agreement

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ALEXANDRIA, Va., July 29 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- In response to the agreement announced that CVS Caremark would provide pharmacy benefits to all 9.7 million lives covered by insurance giant Aetna, the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) issued the following statement from Arlington, Texas pharmacy owner and NCPA President Joseph H. Harmison, PD:

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"When it comes to putting its profits before patients, CVS Caremark is quite simply in a league of its own. In seeking Federal Trade Commission approval of the merger of retail giant CVS with the major pharmacy benefit manager Caremark, pledged to be agnostic as to where patients filled their prescriptions. That pledge has rung hollow as patients and local pharmacists complain of greater and greater pressure – or outright mandates – to switch prescriptions to CVS stores or Caremark mail order.

"Two criticisms lodged against CVS Caremark since the merger would appear to be particularly relevant to the Aetna agreement. First, the utilization of sensitive, private medical information for crass, marketing pitches. Second, t
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