



# National Employer Initiative on Specialty Drugs

*Employer Focused, Employer Driven*



**Coalition Pilot Summary Report**

November 2016

## MBGH Project Overview

- As part of the National Employer Initiative on Specialty Drugs, MBGH invited interested sister coalitions to participate in the multi-year project
- Coalitions were offered guidance, information and resources and were encouraged to offer the toolkit and project resources to their employer members
- MBGH also requested that each coalition share information on their own efforts in managing specialty drugs, both with their members and in the marketplace, including:
  - Employer best practices
  - Feedback on project activities and tools
  - Information on their own coalition activities related to employers and specialty drug management as part of a report to be included on the project's website – [www.specialtyrxtoolkit.org](http://www.specialtyrxtoolkit.org)

- **Pilot Activity**

- Using step-therapy strategy to improve clinical outcomes and medication compliance

- **Rationale**

- Evaluate the effect of an employer based step-therapy program for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Multiple Sclerosis (MS) on pharmacy and medical program costs for select specialty drugs

- **Overview**

- Conducted a simple pre-post comparative analyses of medical and pharmacy benefit program cost associated with specialty drug therapies
- Target therapies for RA and MS before and after implementation of a step-therapy program implemented by CVS Health were evaluated based upon paid claims data in 2012 and 2013 plan years

- **Findings**

- Preferred drug plan designs appear to be cost-neutral when adjusting for inflation and enhanced rebates

- **Lessons Learned**

- Pharmacy-based step-therapy programs may have limited value in the use of brand specialty drugs for RA or MS, unless negotiated rebates for enrollment are substantial
- Note: only brand drugs involved in this step-therapy program; savings may be greater if generics/cheaper biosimilars become available

- **Next Steps**

- Utilize findings to maximize rebate negotiations with PBMs
- Push PBMs to provide more details on how programs are creating savings

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