What CVS Transaction Fee Crisis? 
**TPBC Was On Top of it From Day 1**

➤ **What You Need to Know About the Transaction Fees Ban**

Despite the frenzied cries of alarm, the sky isn't falling folks.

Yes, CVS/Caremark did send out a contract amendment nationwide on Tuesday that implemented a 15-cent "Transaction Submission Resolution Management Service Fee" (seriously) on all pharmacies in its networks to take effect Jan. 1, 2016. **But NO, there is no crisis that calls for mobilizing every pharmacist in the state and writing the entire Texas Legislature. We already took care of it, just quietly and without hysteria.**

**TPBC knew about the fee the same day and contacted the PBM directly Wednesday morning to point out that it is barred from assessing such fees in Texas by the provisions of SB 94 (TPBC's groundbreaking ban on transaction fees that took effect Sept. 1), as well as by the compliance agreement it signed in April with the Texas Department of Insurance. (That agreement was the direct result of TDI enforcement initiated by TPBC.)**

**TPBC was directly assured by CVS/Caremark that amendments to its National Provider Manual would be implemented in full accordance with Texas law:** "The TSRM notification was a national notification to all pharmacies in our network," the PBM told us. "The TSRM will be implemented in accordance with Texas law, as applicable, including Texas SB 94."

**Just to be safe, we forwarded the PBM's notice about the service fee and CVS/Caremark's response to TDI to make sure that its Compliance Division is fully aware of the situation.**

We have no reason to believe that CVS/Caremark will actually try to assess such a fee given that they are squarely in the crosshairs of TPBC and TDI enforcement, but we will watch them closely -- like we always do -- to be sure. We also can't read their minds and won't assume that this incident is a
deliberate attempt to "retaliate" against Texas independents. Most likely, it's nothing more than bureaucratic bungling by a giant PBM, much like the mistake Prime Therapeutics made in sending out the wrong Texas contract in July, which we discovered and reported to both Prime Therapeutics and TDI. (They subsequently sent out an amended contract with no transaction fees.)

TPBC Executive Director Michael Wright urged all independent pharmacists to be vigilant, but stay calm.

"We have to watch the PBMs like a hawk, because compliance is always complaint-driven," he said. "But this latest episode is nothing more than the sleeping guy waking up and yelling 'FIRE' after the fire department has already snuffed out the flames. I wish they had been this fired up when we were working so hard to pass the bill this past session."

To better understand the regulatory landscape on transaction fees and where you can get assistance, please read and refer back to our comprehensive guide on the issue, [What You Need to Know About the Transaction Fee Ban.](#)

Many Texas pharmacy organizations report news about what is happening in advocacy.

WE'RE THE ONES MAKING IT HAPPEN.