## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

## HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**MEETING DATE:** 

February 5, 2007

**SUBJECT:** 

**NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card Program** 

**ATTACHMENTS:** 

Yes

## **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

In May, 2005, the National Association of Counties (NACo) began a 17-county prescription drug discount card pilot program. This program, which has been contracted through CaremarkPCS Health L.P., allows counties to offer prescription discount cards primarily to uninsured and underinsured residents, though the cards may in fact be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage.

The program is not insurance, but rather a prescription discount program. There is no cost to the counties joining the program, but the counties do agree that by joining, Caremark retains 100% of any rebates offered as reasonable compensation for the services.

Several North Carolina counties are already involved in the program including: Alexander, Ashe, Bertie, Bladen, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Camden, Catawba, Cherokee, Columbus, Pender, Haywood, Currituck, Davidson, Edgecombe, Hertford, Lee, Martin, Mitchell, Nash, Swain, Northampton, Onslow, Pitt, Scotland, Transylvania, Union, Vance, Warren and Watauga.

In general, it has been reported that counties are pleased with the program. The benefits provided to program participants include: an average savings of 20%, extra savings available through mail order, savings on specialty medications, no enrollment fees, age, or income requirements, all "commonly" prescribed medicines are covered, and use is unlimited.

The possible drawbacks to the program are that cuts to the rebates pharmacies receive for filling prescriptions particularly affect local, independent pharmacies. It has also been reported by some counties that there is a perceived County Staff or Board of Commissioner responsibility for participant issues with the program.

# BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

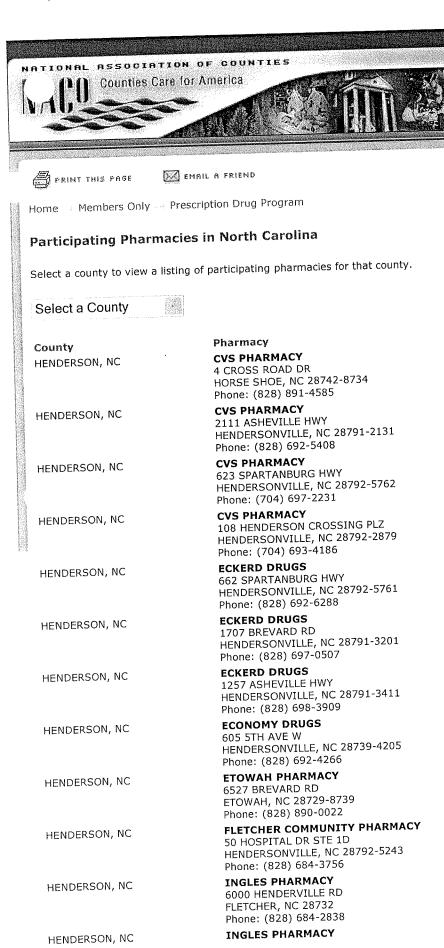
The Board is requested to discuss whether it wishes to consider pursuing involvement in the program.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

No motion suggested.

CONTACT US

ADVANCED SEARCH



Members \* Only

□ Advocacy/Media **Relations Tools** 

SITEMAP

NACO HOME

- □ Grants Clearinghouse
- □ Information Technology Center
- □ Publications
- □ Prescription Drug **Program**

Participating Pharmacies

□ Research