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## **Appropriate Prescription Drug Use Focus of a Coventry Workers' Comp Services Pilot Program**

**Franklin, TN – June 28, 2010** – Coventry Workers' Comp Services, a division of Coventry Health Care, Inc., has released the results of a pilot program focused on appropriate prescription drug use in the workers' compensation industry through their Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) product First Script.

Earlier this year, Coventry launched a pilot, on a limited basis with select clients, to focus on workers' comp prescription drug use. The program capitalized on the wealth of data inherent in the First Script PBM program to identify possibly inappropriate prescribing patterns. Specifically, commonly abused drugs, the length of prescription and potentially harmful prescription combinations helped target particular claims for analysis. Once identified the claimant's current medication regimen was reviewed by a licensed clinical pharmacist. In cases where the prescribing pattern was questionable, First Script contacted the prescriber through its' Physician Peer to Peer (P2P) program to discuss the pharmacist's recommendations for change going forward. The current pilot resulted in an 86% acceptance ratio whereby the prescribing physician agreed to some or all of the recommended changes outlined by Coventry's licensed clinical pharmacist and medical directors.

"We intended to rollout the program over a one year period; however, the success has been so dramatic we are accelerating the release" said Brian Carpenter, R. Ph., vice president, First Script Product Management. "Based on the program's dramatic results, Coventry will offer the program to all its PBM customers."

The First Script approach to pharmacy benefit management is to constantly monitor outliers and address concerns regarding inappropriate drug use proactively. The program starts with a comprehensive workers' compensation drug list and drug utilization review tools that allow First Script to take a greater role in managing drug spend for our clients. For claims that warrant additional investigation, First Script offers its' Drug Utilization Advisory (DUA) program to examine a claimant's current pharmaceutical medication regimen based upon thorough review of medical records and pharmacy claim data. This program recommends alternatives, if necessary, to the current regimen based on medical necessity, Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), and best practice medical guidelines. Once a DUA has been completed, medical peer review (P2P) is available in order to facilitate the adoption of pharmacy recommendations.

### About Coventry Workers' Comp Services

Coventry Workers' Comp Services, a division of Coventry Health Care, Inc., is the leading provider of cost and care management solutions for property and casualty insurance carriers, (workers' compensation and auto insurers), third-party administrators and self-insured employers. We design best-in-class products and services to help our partners restore the health and productivity of injured workers and insureds as quickly and as cost effectively as possible. We accomplish this by developing and maintaining consultative, trusting partnerships with our clients and stakeholders, built on a foundation of innovative and customized solutions that support the claims management process. Go to [www.coventrywcs.com](http://www.coventrywcs.com) for more information.

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