



FLORIDA WHITEBOARDS

Report: Florida HMOs slammed for denying cholesterol drugs

By **CHRISTINE SEXTON**

Florida health plans on average reject 45 percent of the claims claims submitted for coverage of prescribed advanced cholesterol lowering drugs, according to the advocacy group known as Institute for Patient Access.

The institute released a report card highlighting the rates at which Florida insurers deny patients coverage for the medications, known as PCSK9 inhibitors.

The data, collected from August 2015 to July 2016 by a national data supplier, reflects PCSK9 inhibitor claims for Florida managed care organizations, including commercial plans, Medicare and managed Medicaid.

According to the group people insured under the Federal Employee Benefit Plan and Cigna Healthcare had the highest reject rates as well as those who have their pharmaceuticals filled by the pharmacy benefits manager Express Scripts.

The Institute for Patient Access, according to its website, is a physician led policy organization dedicated to “maintaining the primacy of the physician patient relationship in the provision of quality health care.”

It is the first of several report cards the institute will share in the coming weeks as legislators meet in session. The report was issued before the Senate Health Policy Committee was slated to take a vote on a bill that would preclude HMOs and insurance companies from changing drug formularies during a benefit year unless the drug has been recalled by the Food and Drug Administration.

Feb 21, 2017 12:00 PM EST