



**STATE TEACHERS
RETIREMENT SYSTEM
OF OHIO**

March 13, 2013

Ms. Bethany Rhodes
Director and General Counsel
Ohio Retirement Study Council
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1175
Columbus, OH 43215

275 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3771
614-227-4090
www.strsoh.org

RETIREMENT BOARD CHAIR
DALE PRICE

RETIREMENT BOARD VICE CHAIR
ROBERT STEIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MICHAEL J. NEHF

Dear Ms. Rhodes:

The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio) is responding to the request made at the Ohio Retirement Study Council's February meeting by chair Lynn Wachtmann regarding opiates obtained by retirees and their families enrolled in our retiree health care program.

Four Ohio retirement systems currently use Express Scripts (ESI) as their prescription drug benefit administrator. These systems include: Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, School Employees Retirement System, State Teachers Retirement System and the Highway Patrol Retirement System. While each system is responding to the information request independently, all four systems rely on the ESI Fraud, Waste and Abuse Program.

Express Scripts Inc. provides oversight of opiate utilization. ESI's Fraud Waste and Abuse program includes an investigative service that identifies prescribers and enrollees whose utilization patterns fall outside the program's parameters for types of prescriptions, refill patterns and pharmacy utilization (particularly utilization of multiple pharmacies).

Through advanced analytics and data modeling, activities such as utilization of multiple doctors, frequent refill requests and identity theft are uncovered so action can be taken to encourage appropriate use and safety as well as reduce costs.

In April 2013, ESI implemented an additional clinical case management program based on published guidance by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This program identifies potential opioid overutilizers based on the CMS targeting criteria (beneficiaries who have exceeded 120 mg Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED) for at least 90 consecutive days and visited 4 or more prescribers and 4 or more pharmacies). The program includes written and verbal communication with the patient's prescribers, as well as written communication to the enrollee. Based on the results of the case review, additional communications may include such things as point of sale Prior Authorization restrictions.

STRS Ohio staff supports Express Scripts mail service and retail pharmacy execution of federal and state regulations as well as its pharmacy practice standards and clinical guidelines for the safe dispensing of medications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Nehf".

Michael J. Nehf
Executive Director