

From: Page, Hank <[hpage@aging.sc.gov](mailto:hpage@aging.sc.gov)>  
To: Danny Varat [DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov)  
Date: 6/3/2018 4:42:41 PM  
Subject: FW: FOX Carolina - Medicare and gag orders at pharmacies

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Danny,

Below is the basic draft that I was going to send back to the reporter before the LG offered to be interviewed himself. If needed, we can try to get Crystal Strong (from here in our office) on the phone in the morning for more information, since she deals with this daily. As a disclaimer, she is in Washington, DC for a meeting.

After talking with a representative from our SHIP program, it is my understanding that some prescription drugs may be purchased at a cheaper rate by negotiating an out-of-pocket payment rather than utilizing an insurance co-pay. The customer may ask a pharmacy for a price comparison, but a pharmacy is not necessarily required to voluntarily make the price difference known. Our office (1-800-868-9095) is also available to help a senior compare prescription prices and plans, or they may also visit [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov) to use the Medicare Plan Finder as a comparison tool.

Hank Page  
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From: Sarah Danik [<mailto:Sarah.Danik@foxcarolina.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 11:10 AM  
To: Page, Hank  
Subject: FOX Carolina - Medicare and gag orders at pharmacies

Hi Hank!

Great to talk with you - here is an article about the "gag orders" – I'm working on a consumer rights story, so people know about this and that they can speak up for a better price sometimes. I'm looking to see what the rules/laws are in South Carolina, and if this is something you talk to clients about when discussing Medicare.

Thank you!

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/05/29/614556060/to-lower-your-medicare-drug-costs-ask-your-pharmacist-for-the-cash-price>

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