

RELEASE MEDICATION PROGRAM: COST SAVINGS AND ENHANCED INMATE COMPLIANCE

THE CLIENT

- National correctional healthcare provider
- Serves multiple facilities in multiple states

THE CHALLENGE Correctional healthcare client dealing with inmates abandoning medications upon release; increasing waste and decreasing patient compliance.

**INMEDRX
RELEASE MEDICATION PROGRAM** Provides inmates with prescriptions for release medications within a limited window of time to fill at an InMedRx network pharmacy.

THE RESULTS Client saw immediate results; reduced waste and increased patient compliance by 140%.

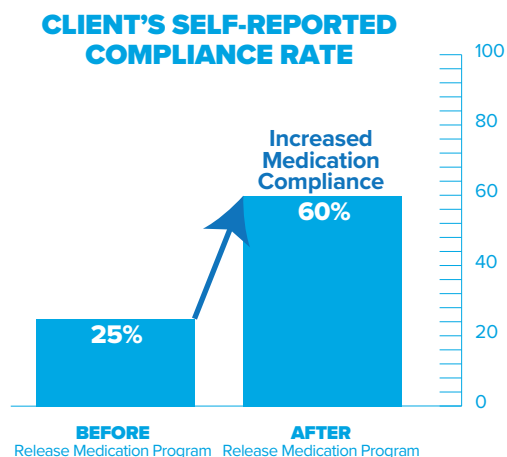
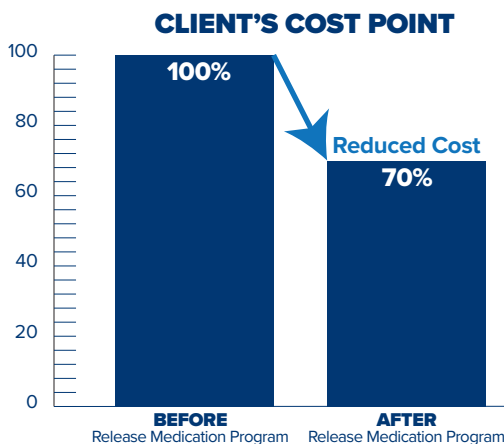
THE CHALLENGE

Correctional healthcare providers deliver vital services to the nation's prison population. For many of the incarcerated, the prison environment is their primary source of any healthcare. Correctional healthcare providers face an escalating problem with release medications. When inmates are released back into the community, the facilities' pharmacies provide inmates with release medications for their transition period. However, this patient population has a high rate of non-compliance.

A national correctional health provider serving multiple facilities in multiple states experienced this challenge firsthand. They reported that inmates

left their medications on the correctional facility grounds and in vehicles. Adding to the problem, some inmates just didn't take their prescribed medications. By the company's estimate, only 20 – 25% of eligible prescriptions were being used by released inmates. That meant a self-reported abandonment rate of 75 – 80% of eligible prescriptions.

The provider was paying for abandoned medications and faced liabilities for the discarded medications. Company leaders wanted to find a solution that would permit compliant patients to receive their medications but not waste time or money on inmates who were non-compliant.



INMEDRX RELEASE MEDICATION PROGRAM
OVERALL BENEFITS

- Increased Savings
- Enhanced Patient Compliance
- Improved Staff Productivity
- Reduced Waste
- Decreased Liabilities

THE SOLUTION

The correctional health provider had a proven partner since 2011 with InMedRx, a pharmacy benefit management service that offers programs geared specifically to the correctional institution industry. InMedRx offers a nationwide network of 65,000-plus retail, independent and IV pharmacies that helps its correctional clients save on retail pharmacy bills.

But InMedRx offered this client more than an extensive pharmacy network – it offered a solution to the mounting costs of abandoned medications with its Release Medication Program. “We recommended that upon release, our client would provide inmates with prescriptions rather than supplying release medications,” explained Nick Wilson, senior director of operations and business development with InMedRx. “Inmates could then have the prescription filled at a local pharmacy in the InMedRx network.”

The Release Medication Program is an industry-specific strategy for corrections facilities. It provides a convenient way for released inmates to get their necessary prescriptions filled and reduces the unwanted fills, the uncertainties and the liabilities that corrections facilities face when providing medications to inmates at the time of their release.

The client put the recommendation into play in April 2011, and saw immediate results. “Our client was impressed that this strategy could yield results so quickly,” said Nick. “And we have been able to sustain those savings over time.”

THE RESULTS

For calendar year 2015, the patient compliance rate topped 60%. That means six out of ten inmates were completing the process of filling their medications after release. Comparing that to the self-reported compliance rate of 25% in 2011 shows a 140% improvement in the patient compliance rate. Additionally, the client saved approximately 8% in potential medication costs that year by not paying for those abandoned medications. The client reports that over time the InMedRx Release Medication Program:

- Increased savings
- Enhanced patient compliance
- Improved staff productivity
- Reduced waste
- Decreased liabilities

Correctional healthcare is a growing, yet shifting field. To address the unique needs of correctional institutions, providers need easy-to-implement strategies that will support its goals, its clients and the inmate prison population. Providers can't do this on their own. They must have a solid relationship with a pharmacy benefit management service that can identify growth opportunities and offer proven programs to ensure their company remains financially sound and a leader in inmate care.