# Opioid Settlement

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**Description:** Information about the Opioid Settlement that CVS Health has agreed to pay. CVS Health has settled, however there is no admission of wrongdoing.

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| Background |

*  On November 2, 2023, we announced an agreement in principle to a financial resolution designed to substantially resolve all opioid lawsuits and claims against CVS Health by states, political subdivisions, such as cities and counties, and tribes in the United States.
* Under this global opioid settlement, we will pay approximately $5 billion over the next ten years beginning in 2023, depending on the number of governmental entities that agree to join the settlement.
* The agreement applies to all CVS Health entities and resolves all claims across Retail Pharmacy (CVS Pharmacy), Mail Order/PBM (Caremark), Health Care Benefits (Aetna), Long Term Care (Omnicare) and Distribution.
* The settlement includes no admission of wrongdoing. Putting these claims behind us is in the best interest of all parties and we will continue our own important initiatives to help reduce the illegitimate use of prescription opioids.

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| Question and Answers |

Refer to as needed:

**Which opioid lawsuits is CVS Health settling under this agreement?**

This agreement is designed to substantially resolve all opioid lawsuits and claims against the company by states, political subdivisions (such as counties and cities), and tribes in the United States.

**What are the terms of the settlement?**

Under this global opioid settlement, we will pay approximately $5 billion over the next ten years beginning in 2023, depending on the number of governmental agencies that agree to join the settlement.

**Will the settlement have a material impact on the company’s financial health?**

We recorded a total pre-tax charge of $5.2 billion during third quarter of 2022 reflecting the cash component of the estimated loss and expect the cash impact of this settlement in 2023 and 2024 to be less than $500 million in each year.

The timing of cash settlement payments, spread over multiple years, allows the company to continue to invest in its strategic priorities.

**Is CVS admitting through this settlement that it contributed to the country’s opioid epidemic?**

* No. Our settlement includes no admission of wrongdoing but allows us to put these claims behind us.
* We have an established track record as a leader in the fight against opioid abuse. We’ve put in place innovative, comprehensive, and industry-leading policies, procedures and controls related to the dispensing of prescription opioid medication and other controlled substances.
* We’ve also developed effective educational programs for patients and providers, created thousands of safe medication disposal sites, and expanded access to life-saving overdose reversal medication.
* Pharmacists fill legal prescriptions written by DEA-licensed doctors who prescribe legal, FDA-approved substances to treat patients in need.
* We’re proud of the substantial work we’ve done to support our pharmacists in detecting illegitimate prescribing.

**Will CVS be changing the way it dispenses opioids because of this settlement?**

* Over the past several years, we’ve put in place innovative, comprehensive, and industry-leading policies, procedures and controls related to the dispensing of prescription opioid medication and other controlled substances.
* Pharmacists fill legal prescriptions written by DEA-licensed doctors who prescribe legal, FDA-approved substances to treat patients in need.
* We’re proud of the substantial work we’ve done to support our pharmacists in detecting illegitimate prescribing.
* But the simple facts are that opioid prescriptions are written by doctors, not pharmacists; opioid medications are made and marketed by manufacturers, not pharmacists; and our health care system depends on pharmacists to fill legitimate prescriptions that doctors deem necessary for their patients.

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| Related Documents |

[Customer Care Abbreviations, Definitions and Terms Index (017428)](https://thesource.cvshealth.com/nuxeo/thesource/" \l "!/view?docid=c1f1028b-e42c-4b4f-a4cf-cc0b42c91606)

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