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# Montana Association of Counties

*Serving Montana Counties Since 1909*

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## **MACo Health Care Trust Update**

The news from the Health Care Trust is short and sweet. The Health Care Trust launched Reference Based Pricing last July. Reference Based Pricing (RBP) is a method of paying hospitals and other medical facilities based on a standard reference point, in this case Medicare.

Reference based pricing closes the gap in how much different hospitals in Montana charge for the same services and saves MACo HCT and our participants money. There are already indications this initiative has reduced the costs of the Trust. Our Actuary has already made some initial adjustments for claims funding because of RBP.

The Trust switched Pharmacy Benefit Managers effective 1/1/19. We went from Caremark to Express Scripts (ESI). This was a really big change. We look forward to ESI providing better services and resources to manage our members pharmacy spend.

We continue to be active in the wellness space to help our members. After 10 years of recruiting of Ravalli County, they joined the Trust effective January 1, 2019 as a full member.

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