



Robert L. Barchi, President

October 17, 2019

Ms. Mary Mickelsen
University Senate
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Liberty Plaza, Suite 1200
College Avenue Campus

Dear Ms. Mickelsen:

At the September meeting of the University Senate, a senator asked me about the closing of the Rutgers Student Health Pharmacy, and I promised to report back to the Senate with information about this decision.

I want to begin with some background to put this decision in context. At one time there were three separate pharmacies serving Rutgers–New Brunswick students, located on Busch, Douglass, and College Avenue campuses, with three registered pharmacists. By 2006, because of falling revenues, Rutgers was operating one full pharmacy at Hurtado. Even after this consolidation, revenues continued to fall. Since 2014, prescriptions filled at the Student Health Pharmacy have fallen 17% while the operating deficit has grown.

The University issued a request for proposals earlier this year, aiming to outsource the pharmacy, but the RFP was unsuccessful. As a result, the Student Health Services Office determined the pharmacy was not economically sustainable and closed it last month.

However, all prescriptions previously filled through the Rutgers Student Health Pharmacy have been transferred with no disruption in service to the Walgreens at 1 Robert Wood Johnson Place (located in RWJ/Barnabas Medical Center atrium) in New Brunswick. In addition, the University partnered with Walgreens to provide the following services:

- Concierge Service with daily delivery (Monday to Friday) of medications to Hurtado Health Center for pharmaceuticals ordered by student health providers.
- Express Delivery with next day FedEx delivery to students' residence or on-campus mail location (there is a \$4.99 service charge)
- Express Pick Up with expedited pickup and payment at a Walgreens

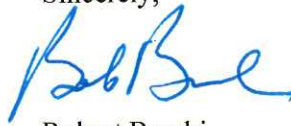
Students have other options as well. There are four pharmacies on the EE bus route, along with ones at the RWJ/Barnabas Medical Center Atrium and St. Peter's Hospital. Over-the-counter medications, such as Plan B, can be purchased at any pharmacy. They can also be obtained with a prescription via the concierge and express delivery services outlined above.

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Students can also take advantage of discount coupons such as Goodrx.com for those who choose not to use a prescription plan. The price using this option can be less than the amount paid for co-pays with some prescription plans. Emergency contraception (e.g. Plan B) can be purchased for under \$20.00 with the Goodrx.com coupon.

I hope this information is helpful, and I recommend that any particular questions or concerns about this change be directed to Salvador Mena, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Sincerely,



Robert Barchi

c: Christopher Molloy, Chancellor, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
Salvador Mena, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Rutgers University–New Brunswick