

THE PBM PROBLEM IS GETTING WORSE: Congress Needs to Help Us Get Our Medicines

Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) came into existence with one job – to purchase medicines in bulk to help keep costs in check and get the best deal for consumers. This didn't happen.

Over time, PBMs have gone out of their way to increase barriers to access, all while increasing their profits. Consumers aren't seeing savings on the medicines that we need.

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE WAYS PBMS ARE LOOKING OUT FOR THEMSELVES AND NOT CONSUMERS:

PBMs



The three largest PBMs have **excluded hundreds of drugs from their list of approved medications**, denying coverage for more medications than ever before.

PBM gag clauses ban pharmacists from telling consumers when a cheaper option is available, limiting access to affordable medications.

PBMs force patients to first try medicines that benefit the PBM or insurance company – a practice known as step therapy – before patients can access the treatment prescribed by their doctor.



PBMs steer patients towards more expensive medicines – often through major PBM-owned pharmacies – to continue lining their pockets at the expense of consumers. This often leads to local pharmacy closures, making access more difficult.

These barriers to access aren't only frustrating; they can create real problems for patients...

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Robert could no longer afford the medication he needed when faced with rising out-of-pocket costs. When it came to putting food on the table for his family or managing his high blood pressure, he made the choice to halt medication.



Sarah skipped some pills here and there to keep costs down. When patients don't take the medication as prescribed, their prescription is not as effective.



While the Federal Trade Commission, Senate Finance Committee, Senate Commerce Committee and even the U.S. Supreme Court have investigated and ruled against PBMs in recent years, we need to restructure the PBM business model to restore transparency and lower costs.

POLICYMAKERS CAN HELP REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESS BY:

