



Winter 2025 Newsletter

Health Advisory Council Fall Membership Meeting

On November 20th, NCL hosted the 2025 HAC Fall Membership Meeting focused on transparency as it relates to medication affordability and accessibility. The event featured industry and policy experts in their field, including Dr. Ge Bai, Professor of Practice at Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School; Kevin Chang, Senior Advisor to Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA); and Allan Coukell, Chief Government Affairs and Public Policy Officer at Civica Inc. The PowerPoint from the event can be viewed [here](#).

The video recording of the event is available [here](#).

Discussion centered on pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), how they function, shape drug prices, and potential reforms. Each panelist examined a different perspective on the topic, including PBM reform, transparency, and alternative access channels.

Dr. Bai also highlighted an upcoming event on December 16th at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center, focusing on entrepreneurship and healthcare innovation. Featuring Mark Cuban, Bill Gurley, and other healthcare leaders, the event is open to the public. [Registration](#) is required.



SYF Team challenge

NCL's annual Script Your Future Team Challenge is set to begin on January 1. Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy that choose to participate must submit a letter of intention to NCL by December 31, 2025. Letters submitted after this date will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Themes for teams to consider during the challenge include, but are not limited to, vaccine confidence, misinformation, over-the-counter safety, online pharmacy purchases, self-harm and stigma, and continuing education for practicing pharmacists. To learn more about the Challenge, visit the Script Your Future [website](#) and find the FAQs [here](#).

If you are interested in supporting Script Your Future or have any questions about the Team Challenge, email Sam Sears, Senior Manager of Health Policy, at samanthas@nclnet.org. NCL encourages HAC members to share with their networks! To read about what the past winners were able to accomplish, visit the Script Your Future [website](#).

340B and Medical Debt

NCL continues to advocate for commonsense reforms of the 340B program to help address consumers' growing medical debt and reconnect the program to its original intent. As such, NCL submitted [comments](#) to the Senate HELP Committee in October of 2025 in advance of a hearing titled *The 340B Program: Examining Its Growth and Impact on Patients*. The letter focused on increasing transparency and oversight, ensuring that discounts directly benefit patients, and prohibiting hospitals from pursuing aggressive debt-collection practices.

Additionally, on November 2nd, NCL highlighted the need for 340B reform during the American Public Health Association annual conference, on a panel hosted by BlackDoctor.Org. During this panel, Sam Sears highlighted the aggressive tactics 340B hospitals use to pursue outstanding medical debt and the lack of transparency about what some covered entities are using 340B funds for. As part of this "Generational Health" panel, Sam was joined by Pamela Barnes, Director of Federal Strategic Alliances at Bristol Myers Squibb, and Jeanette Contreras, founder of the Organization for Latino Health Advocacy.

Vaccines

NCL is deeply concerned by the recent vote by the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to eliminate the well-established recommendation for hepatitis B vaccination at birth. We continue to advocate for science-based vaccine policy and recommendations. In advance of the December 5 ACIP meeting, NCL submitted written comments urging the committee to keep all recommendations grounded in science and proven safety and efficacy.

Our comments highlighted that the proposed changes, especially those involving the hepatitis B vaccine and the use of adjuvants, would reduce consumers' care options and significantly increase risks to communities nationwide. HAC members can read our comments in full [here](#).

More NCL Resources

- [NCL Comments to FDA in response to citizen petition for label changes to OTC acetaminophen](#)
 - [NCL joins ERIC and over 100 other organizations to urge Congress to pass PBM reform](#)
 - [NCL joins 20 other stakeholders urging HHS to ensure patient access and affordability via TrumpRx](#)
 - [Guest Blog: Lives on the Line: Dialysis Patients Fight for Innovative Medicine](#)
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Sent to: maggieo@nclnet.org

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National Consumers League, 1701 K Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20006, United States