



**YOUR PA
COMMUNITY
PHARMACIES**



**Your PA Community
Pharmacies is a coalition
of your independent
pharmacies across
Pennsylvania, who take
pride in being long-standing
members of the community.**

WHO WE ARE

We are your independent, community pharmacists. For decades, we have served generations of families all across Pennsylvania, providing your loved ones with the best in pharmaceutical care. We care deeply for our local communities and take tremendous pride in the service we provide each and every day.

Today, we find our pharmacies are under threat due to a variety of factors. Your Pennsylvania community pharmacies are working hard to ensure that Pennsylvania families can continue to benefit from the many services we provide as members of your communities.



ISSUES IMPACTING PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

Medicaid Funding: Pennsylvania's Medicaid program is paying billions more than it should for prescription drugs, due to the growing presence of pharmacy benefit managers. Originally designed to save Medicaid dollars, PBMs have seen their payments from the commonwealth increase by more than \$1 billion in only four years to \$2.84 billion.

Price Transparency: Pennsylvania law lacks any real transparency to ensure PBMs are treating pharmacies and their patients fairly. In fact, a recent report from the Pennsylvania auditor general found that PBMs are keeping hundreds of millions of dollars through what is called "spread pricing." Current Pennsylvania law doesn't require PBMs to report spread pricing, which is the difference between what an insurer pays the PBM and what the PBM reimburses to the pharmacies.

Fair Reimbursement: Under current Pennsylvania law, PBMs are not being held accountable for providing appropriate Medicaid reimbursement rates to community pharmacies. Often, reimbursement rates are below the cost that pharmacies must pay to purchase the medications. Additionally, dispensing fees are as low as 10 cents and trending toward no dispensing fee in the very near future, which is unsustainable. Without full transparency in reimbursement rates, the public cannot be sure all pharmacies are being paid equitably. Since one PBM is also owner of a large pharmacy chain, it is imperative to monitor if those pharmacies are receiving preferential treatment, which could severely limit a patient's choice of pharmacy, cripple the survival of independent pharmacies and, ultimately, raise the overall cost to taxpayers.

In addition to these key areas, there are a number of other related concerns including allowing pharmacists to discuss these issues freely without fear of retribution.

SOLUTIONS

To help serve our communities and drive down the costs of prescription drugs, your Pennsylvania community pharmacies are working hard in Harrisburg to address Medicaid funding, transparency and fair reimbursements. A package of bills in both the House and Senate have been introduced.

Please join us in supporting and advocating for Pennsylvania House Bills 941, 942, 943, 944 and 945, and in the Senate with Bills 825, 829 and 789. The legislation can be found [here](http://www.papharmacists.com/page/ActionCenter), along with the ability for you to contact your state legislators: www.papharmacists.com/page/ActionCenter. Tell your legislators to support this package of bills because it will lower prescription drug costs and ultimately save lives.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Your PA Community Pharmacies has dedicated tremendous resources to improving the health and lives of our neighbors. To achieve this, we work to educate our members on the latest health care issues, as well as equip customers with information they need to have a strong quality of life.

Through our partnership with the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, Value Drug, Philadelphia Association of Retail Druggists and the Independent Pharmacy Cooperative, we have created a database that provides Pennsylvania pharmacists and patients critical data on the most challenging health issues of our time, including:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Immunization/Vaccines
- Lung Disease
- Opioid/Fentanyl Addiction
- Tobacco Cessation

To directly access this database, please visit:
www.papharmacists.com/page/Toolkitshome.

More information on opioid care and assistance can be found here: www.kpparx.com/opioid-resources.

Additional resources are available for Pennsylvania pharmacists to improve care through several important initiatives:

- PA Pharmacists Care Network:
www.papharmacistsnetwork.com
- PPA Educational Foundation:
www.papharmacists.com/page/FoundationInfo
- PPA Comprehensive Medication Management Collaborative: www.papharmacists.com/page/CMMC

WHAT STATE LAWMAKERS AND OFFICIALS ARE SAYING

“... PBMs are overcharging patients and taxpayers untold millions of dollars, and they are trying to drive local pharmacies out of business in order to fatten their own bottom lines. We have entrusted these companies with an enormous responsibility and an enormous amount of taxpayer dollars, but it’s become clear that they are abusing that trust. They have operated in the dark for far too long. It’s time to bring oversight and transparency to the PBMs. I stand ready to support the auditor general’s recommendations.”

- *State Rep. Rob Matzie (D-Allegheny)*

“Prescription drug costs continue to rise, despite the wave of less-expensive, generic drugs that are now available. Pharmacy benefit managers have ballooned in the shadows of the marketplace, drawing in skyrocketing profits while flexing increasing control over who may access which prescription medications.”

- *Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale*

“Pharmacists throughout the commonwealth have been voicing their frustration about not being able to save customers money on their prescription drugs. I believe our bipartisan and bicameral legislative package will help lower the cost of prescription medication in Pennsylvania.”

- *Sen. Kristen Phillips Hill (R-York)*

“I have heard from my local pharmacies about severe cuts to pharmacy reimbursement rates by PBM’s. For many medications, payments are well below cost, forcing pharmacies to operate in the red. These pharmacy reimbursement cuts make it extremely difficult for the 900 independent pharmacies in our Commonwealth to maintain inventory, stay in business and serve our most vulnerable citizens. I share the pharmacists’ frustration regarding this issue.”

- *Sen. Judy Ward (R-Westmoreland)*



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508 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1199
phone: 717-234-6151
fax: 717-236-1618

 @ypacp

www.ypacp.org