

UNLOCKING AN AFFORDABLE FUTURE

Executive Summary

Overview

The Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA)'s policy platform, "Unlocking an Affordable Future," provides policymakers a roadmap to prioritize patients and clinicians with public policy solutions that promote competition in the prescription drug market, lower costs, support better health outcomes, and maximize the value of pharmacy benefits.

"Supporting an affordable and accessible health care future for patients is fundamental to the role and mission of pharmacy benefit companies. Our vision is to enhance competition in the prescription drug marketplace. By building on what is working in our health care system, the 'Affordable Futures' platform can lower prescription drug costs for patients.

Our industry's pharmacy benefit companies are committed to maximizing value for employers, taxpayers and patients, and we look forward to working with policymakers to advance these solutions to unlock an affordable health care future."

~ JC Scott, president and CEO, PCMA ~

There are more than **70 pharmacy benefit companies** in the U.S. working every day to secure savings, enable better health outcomes, and support access to quality prescription drug coverage for patients. Specifically, pharmacy benefit companies **secure savings** by pushing for price concessions from big drug companies, **enable better health outcomes** for patients through clinical support services and data-sharing, and **provide employers, government programs and other health plan sponsors with a wide range of choices** and guidance for quality prescription drug coverage.

Pharmacy benefit companies serve the prescription drug and affordability needs of 275 million people in the U.S., generating \$1,040 savings on prescription drugs per patient, per year.

Building an affordable and sustainable health care future that prioritizes value for patients will require collaboration and accountability from every entity in the prescription drug supply chain.

PCMA's vision for a more accessible and affordable health care future focuses on three key areas to build on what's working in our health care system toward a more functional, equitable and affordable market for patients to access prescription drugs.

KEY #1 Ensure System Sustainability by Promoting Competition. Enabling a robust private prescription drug marketplace that promotes competition is the best way to drive down prescription costs and make more affordable alternatives available to patients.

KEY #2 Support and Equip Clinicians with Tools and Data to Serve Patients Optimally. Pharmacy benefit companies support efforts to help clinicians, including pharmacists and other health care practitioners, "practice at the top of their license" to optimize use of their clinical expertise and counseling abilities. Pharmacy benefit companies also work to increase clinicians' administrative efficiency by offering information and tools to help serve patients.

KEY #3 Enhance Patient Outcomes and Improve the Patient Experience. Pharmacy benefit companies support policies that provide greater flexibility to use their prescription drug expertise to support better health outcomes and provide recommendations to meet each patient's needs.

Solutions

KEY #1

Ensure System Sustainability by Promoting Competition.

Pharmacy benefit companies—with their scale, deep pharmacy and prescription drug expertise and proven strategies to secure cost savings for employers, health plans and ultimately patients and taxpayers—can harness competition to lower high prescription drug costs where competitive products are on the market. Solutions to promote a more affordable, competitive, and sustainable market include:

- » Stop patent abuse by big drug companies. End anticompetitive practices such as “evergreening,” “patent thickets,” and “product hopping” that prevent less expensive competing products, like generics and biosimilars, from entering the marketplace and providing more affordable alternatives for patients.
- » Support a robust biosimilar market and encourage investment in these critical alternatives to the highest cost brand name biologics.
- » Reserve market exclusivities for true innovation and ensure alternatives to high-priced brand name drugs can compete fairly.
- » Ensure pharmacy networks can secure lower costs for patients.

KEY #2

Support and Equip Clinicians with Tools and Data to Serve Patients Optimally.

Physicians, pharmacists, and other health care providers are both valued employees within pharmacy benefit companies and indispensable external partners as we work together to provide patients and caregivers with care and support. Pharmacy benefit companies are making it a priority to streamline administrative processes, facilitating clinicians' ability to allocate more



time to direct patient care. Solutions to maximize the effectiveness of clinicians include:

- » Support clinicians with data and tools to improve efficiency and serve patients most effectively.
- » Empower clinicians to best serve patients by focusing on clinical matters, rather than administrative tasks to best serve patients.
- » Encourage the use of lower cost care options.

KEY #3

Enhance Patient Outcomes and Improve the Patient Experience.

Pharmacy benefit companies bring together pharmacists, physicians, and other clinicians who use their specialized knowledge to evaluate prescription drugs and make recommendations that help provide patients access to the safest and most effective drug to meet their needs at the best price available to them. Policy flexibilities that could further enhance the ability of pharmacy benefit companies to support better health outcomes include:

- » Accelerate value-based care that prioritizes clinical value and better health outcomes for patients.
- » Advance use of real-world evidence to protect patient safety.
- » Encourage cost-saving innovations that can also improve patient experience, like home delivery.



[Click here to access the full “Affordable Future” platform.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the role and mission of pharmacy benefit companies.](#)

ABOUT PCMA

PCMA is the national association representing America's pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). PBMs administer prescription drug plans for more than 266 million Americans who have health insurance from a variety of sponsors including: commercial health plans, self-insured employer plans, union plans, Medicare Part D plans, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), state government employee plans, Medicaid plans, and others.