



PARTNERSHIP FORUM

No.1  2020



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Helping Patients Anticipate and Manage Drug Costs

In pursuit of ensuring that patients have access to medicines they need at a cost they can afford, AMCP convened a multidisciplinary stakeholder forum March 12–13, 2020, in Alexandria, Va. to explore the intended and unintended consequences of a myriad of drug pricing proposals now under consideration. The AMCP Partnership Forum was designed to allow participants to consider implications of several potential drug pricing reforms, including those that address point-of-sale rebates and patient assistance programs. Specifically, participants representing diverse sectors—including health plans, patient advocacy, employers, integrated delivery systems, PBMs, specialty pharmacies, and the biopharmaceutical industry—explored:

- Opportunities to curb rising drug costs when approaching different reforms.
- Solutions to improve price transparency and help patients understand and manage drug costs.
- The value of patient assistance programs and how copay policies fit into the affordability equation.
- Best practices around point-of-sale rebates, patient assistance programs, and copay coupons.
- Greater out-of-pocket cost protections for patients through benefit design.

In addition, they identified challenges to achieving these outcomes, including:

- The highly segmented health care system in the United States;
- The rising cost of medicines, which are increasing faster than other health care costs;

AMCP Partnership Forums are designed to address current market challenges and opportunities by bringing together key-decision makers in managed care, integrated care, the pharmaceutical industry, and others to discuss and collaborate on tactics and strategies to drive efficiencies and outcomes.

WATCH FOR FOLLOW-UP

Proceedings in AMCP's *Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy*:
September 2020

Webinar: Sep. 1, 2020

Next Partnership Forum:
Preparing for and Managing Rare Diseases
Sep. 8–9, 2020
The Alexandrian Old Town
Alexandria, Va.

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- Difficulty in determining which treatment would be most cost effective for a specific patient within their given plan; and
- Inefficiencies in the supply chain for drugs and biologics, some of which yield greater patient cost burdens and suboptimal incentives for utilization of certain therapeutics.

Opportunities for improvement included suggestions to:

- **Align all stakeholders to place patients in the center of decision-making.** Any benefit changes or reforms should address patient access, affordability, and adherence.
- **Improve predictability and “smoothing” of out-of-pocket costs to help patients.** Portability of benefits and better education at the time of benefits selection will help patients understand their costs and opportunities.
- **Ensure that drug pricing transparency information is timely, meaningful, and easy to access.** Some participants noted that it is difficult for all stakeholders to determine which treatment would be most cost effective for a specific patient within their given benefits plan. Use technology solutions to allow providers to easily access patients’ personalized coverage information, supporting better doctor-patient discussions during an office visit.
- **Make pharmacy benefits easier to understand for patients.** Patients today are confused about what payments go toward their out-of-pocket expenses, and the relationship between copays and premiums and the effect of copay coupons.
- **Consider a nationally recognized measurement of value for therapies.** Currently there is no single entity—such as the FDA—that confers a commonly accepted value on a medicine or therapy.
- **Modernize regulatory considerations around major health programs.** Medicare and Medicaid were designed and implemented more than 50 years ago and have not fully evolved with the changing times and innovations.
- **Many sectors will need to change.** Lowering costs for patients is a multi-dimensional challenge that will require coordination from many stakeholders. Previous business models must now be reconsidered and prepared for sweeping change if patient-centered health care reforms are going to improve price transparency, address the rising costs of medications, and help patients understand and manage drug costs.

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