



ABHP ADVOCACY TO PROTECT 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS

Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act (Pub. L. 102-585) requires participating drug manufacturers to provide discounted prices on covered outpatient drugs, to eligible healthcare organizations known as covered entities, who serves the country's indigent and vulnerable patient population. The intent of the program is to permit covered entities to stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive health services. Covered entities realize significant savings by purchasing outpatient drugs through the 340B program. Covered entities use these savings to provide additional services that will benefit patients. The 340B program helps safety-net providers carry out their missions to serve their communities.

The Association of Black Health-system Pharmacists (ABHP) believes:

- All Americans need access to prescription medications and pharmacist-provided patient care services to help them optimize therapeutic outcomes and reduce the risk of adverse events from medication therapy.
- The 340B program is essential to covered entities' ability to advance its direct patient care goals and provide healthcare services to vulnerable patients and communities, including access to medications for the uninsured and underserved patients.
- Pharmacists are a highly trained and valuable resource. Many are certified and have training in specialty areas such as cardiovascular care, diabetes, and asthma, yet they are currently underutilized. The 340B program allows for strategies to maximize equity and safety of drug distribution and collaborative disease management with physicians while providing patients with access to the full benefit of pharmacist-provided patient care services to achieve better health care.
- Any efforts to scale back, significantly reduce the benefits of, or expand the regulatory burden of the 340B program, including proposals to dramatically expand reporting requirements on certain 340B hospitals and impose a moratorium on new entrants into the program, are areas we oppose. These proposals would involve significant changes in hospital inventory practices, could prove to be unworkable in mixed-use settings and are unwarranted given the value the 340B program provides to the communities safety-net hospitals serve.

ABHP supports the advocacy efforts of our members and our partners to protect the 340B program, including the American Society of Health-system Pharmacists (ASHP) and 340B Health. We remain committed to ensuring access to affordable medications and to providing accessible pharmacy services. What constitutes health equity is the vital role of pharmacy, particularly Black pharmacists, as life-saving providers, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. As racism continues to divide our nation, and partisan politics and economics disenfranchise communities, ABHP supports the truth that 340B hospitals and providers are critical front-line healthcare workers who proudly serve those in need.