



Protect your access to safe and affordable medicine.

What is a Pharmacy Benefit Manager?

Pharmacy Benefit Managers, or PBMs, are large corporate middlemen in the pharmacy supply chain. They are responsible for developing and maintaining formularies, contracting with pharmacies, negotiating discounts and rebates with drug manufacturers, and processing and paying prescription drug claims.

Where do they fit in the supply chain?

PBMs operate within the health care system as part of retail pharmacies as well as part as insurance companies. This unique position gives them significant power over the prescription drug market and allows them to dictate which drugs are covered and where you get them.

PBMs have the power to:

- Control which drugs are covered under your health plan's formulary.
- Require you to use a mail order pharmacy (often owned by the PBM) for certain medications.
- Dictate which pharmacies will be included in your plan's network, steering you to use PBM owned stores over your preferred community pharmacist.
- Determine how much to pay pharmacists for filling your prescription, which can restrict small business pharmacies' ability to offer certain drugs if they aren't reimbursed properly.

What's the solution?

It's time to hold PBMs accountable. More transparency is needed to put an end to shady profiteering practices that distort the market and harm patients as well as the local pharmacists who care for them. State and federal laws are needed to impose reasonable regulation and oversight on these corporations.



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