

National Survey Results

- Q1** I'm going to read you a brief explanation and then ask you a series of questions. Many people don't know that the cost of prescription drugs is not set by pharmacies. The amount you pay at the pharmacy counter is set by your health insurance plan and a company they own or hire, called a pharmacy benefit manager or P-B-M, to decide how much you pay. The health insurance plan and the PBM also decide how much to pay your pharmacy for filling prescriptions. Every time your pharmacy fills a prescription, your pharmacy incurs costs of doing business. Very often health insurance plans and their PBMs pay pharmacies less for prescription drugs than it costs the pharmacy to buy and safely dispense the drug to you. That means the pharmacy loses money on those prescriptions. Do you think that's fair, or not?
- Yes..... 13%
- No 59%
- Not sure 29%
- Q2** Here's the next one: Very often health insurance plans and their PBMs decide which pharmacies their patients must use. Should insurance plans tell patients which pharmacies to use, or not?
- Yes..... 8%
- No 84%
- Not sure 8%
- Q3** Here's the next one: Very often health insurance plans and their PBMs require patients to use a pharmacy that is owned by the insurance plan or the PBM. Should insurance plans and PBMs require patients to use pharmacies owned by insurance plans and PBMs, or not?
- Yes..... 9%
- No 78%
- Not sure 13%
- Q4** Here's the next one: Very often health insurance plans and their PBMs own mail order pharmacies and penalize patients by making them pay more if they don't get their medicine through the insurance company's mail order pharmacy. Should insurance plans be allowed to require patients to get their medicines through the insurance company's mail order pharmacy, or not?
- Yes..... 11%
- No 78%
- Not sure 10%
- Q5** Here's the last one: Very often health insurance plans and their PBMs require patients to use an expensive medicine even when there is a less expensive generic alternative. Should insurance plans and PBMs require patients to use more expensive medicines when there is a less expensive alternative, or not?
- Yes..... 7%
- No 83%
- Not sure 10%

Q6 Recently some new drugs have been given emergency use authorization by the FDA to treat people who are infected with COVID-19. These new drugs come in pill form and can be swallowed. These new drugs can prevent patients from becoming seriously ill, hospitalized, or even dying. Like all medicines, pharmacies incur a cost when dispensing these new drugs. Knowing that, how much would you say health insurance companies and PBMs should reimburse pharmacies for dispensing drugs used to treat COVID-19: enough for the pharmacy to cover the cost of the drug, the costs to dispense the drug, and make a small profit, at least enough for the pharmacy to just cover its costs, or less than what the pharmacy needs to cover its cost?

- Think health insurance companies and PBMs should reimburse pharmacies enough for the pharmacy to cover the cost of the drug, the costs to dispense the drug, and make a small profit* 50%
- Think they should reimburse at least enough for the pharmacy to just cover its costs* 32%
- Think they should reimburse less than what the pharmacy needs to cover its costs* 6%
- Not sure* 13%

Q7 Every time your pharmacy dispenses one of these new COVID-19 drugs, your pharmacy incurs a cost of roughly \$40. One insurance plan and its PBM is reimbursing pharmacies \$1 for dispensing the drugs. Do you think that's fair, or not?

- Yes*..... 9%
- No* 74%
- Not sure* 17%

Q8 Assuming health insurance plans and their PBMs continue forcing pharmacies to lose money on COVID-19 medicines, how likely would you say it is that pharmacies will be unable to fill those prescriptions: very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?

- Very likely* 36%
- Somewhat likely*..... 29%
- Not very likely* 19%
- Not sure* 17%