

Mounting Pressure on PBMs: Scrutiny from Every Corner

Patients Want Bipartisan Solutions

New data shows that American voters are eager for bipartisan solutions to help lower patients' out-of-pocket costs and ensure that savings meant for patients get to patients. Congress should pass pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reforms that stop PBMs from being paid based on the price of medicines, make sure patients benefit directly from rebates and increase transparency.

Delinking list price from compensation: **72%** of Americans support requiring PBMs to be paid based on the services they provide instead of the price of a medicine



Ensuring patients receive rebates: **80%** of Americans support requiring health insurance companies and their PBMs to pass rebates to patients at the pharmacy counter



Increasing transparency: **81%** of Americans are concerned that PBMs influence what medicines patients get and control what patients pay at the pharmacy



PBMs claim to "extract" savings on prescription drugs, but as federal and state lawmakers, regulators, the media and patients have found, these savings often don't make it to patients. On the contrary, **PBMs have been found to pocket patient savings, drive up costs and decrease access to life-changing treatments.**



The three largest PBMs control **80%** of the prescription drug market.

▶ **(That's 220 million Americans.)**

Federal Lawsuits and Investigations Target PBM Practices

"PBMs wield enormous power over patients' ability to access and afford their prescription drugs, allowing PBMs to significantly influence what drugs are available and at what price." – [FTC](#)

The Federal Trade Commission is suing PBMs for inflating insulin prices, alleging they favor high list price, highly rebated versions over lower-cost alternatives. This is in addition to their investigation into PBMs, focusing on anti-competitive practices. They released their second interim report in 2025, which confirmed PBMs profit at the expense of patients and are driving up drug prices.

"Even when low list price insulins became available, the PBMs systematically excluded them in favor of identical high list price, highly rebated versions...one PBM Vice President acknowledged that this strategy allowed the Big Three to continue to 'drink down the tasty ... rebates'" – [FTC](#)

THE HILL

[PBMs made billions marking up specialty drugs by more than 1,000 percent](#)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG) are both conducting their own [investigations](#) into the role PBMs play in driving up the cost of medicines.

State Attorneys General, State Lawmakers Push for PBM Accountability



60+ state PBM reform bills introduced in 2025



States like **Ohio**, **Vermont** and **Hawaii** have filed lawsuits against PBMs



39 bipartisan Attorneys General (AGs) have expressed to Congress concerns that PBMs profit at the expense of patients and employers and [called for congressional action](#) to reform PBM practices

Chicago Tribune

[Illinois looks to rein in drug intermediaries over high costs](#)

STAT

[CVS and its PBM agree to pay \\$45 million to Illinois for failing to pass drug rebates](#)

"PBMs are modern gangsters. They were designed to protect and negotiate on behalf of employers and consumers after Big Pharma was criticized for overpricing medications, but instead they have absolutely destroyed transparency, scheming in the shadows to control drug prices on all sides of the market." — Ohio Attorney General, Dave Yost

Congress Probes PBM Operations

The [U.S. Senate](#) and the [House of Representatives](#) are looking under the hood of the PBM business model and the broader aggressive consolidation efforts from health care conglomerates that are harming patients. In 2024, the House Oversight Committee released a scalding investigative report on how PBMs drive up drug costs.

*"This report describes the Committee on Oversight and Accountability's findings that **PBMs inflate prescription drug costs and interfere with patient care for their own financial benefit.**"*

— House Oversight Committee Investigative Report



Fierce Healthcare

[Bipartisan legislators revive PBM reform debate on the hill](#)

In 2024, **120** House members + **34** senators called for urgent action.



Media Exposes PBM Practices Hurting Patients

The New York Times

[The Opaque Industry Secretly Inflating Prices for Prescription Drugs](#)



REUTERS

[CVS unit ordered to pay \\$95 million in Medicare whistleblower lawsuit](#)

STAT

[UnitedHealth continues making stealthy deals, pushing deeper into medical care as scrutiny mounts](#)

WSJ

[Mail-Order Drugs Were Supposed to Keep Costs Down. It's Doing the Opposite.](#)

STAT

[How UnitedHealth Harnesses Its Physician Empire To Squeeze Profits Out Of Patients](#)

WSJ

[Generic Drugs Should Be Cheap, but Insurers Are Charging Thousands of Dollars for Them](#)