

Prompt

The treatment of the pharmacy profession and patients by PBMs in recent years has been egregious on many fronts. From unassailable, predatory contracts designed to put competitors of these conglomerate companies out of business, to patient steering and medical decision-making with consideration of only their profits, and not the patients' health. Everyday my pharmacy is stuck making decisions to either provide certain prescriptions at a significant loss or stay in business so that we can take care of our other patients. These are not choices that healthcare professionals should be dealing with; our obligation is to the community and the patients that we serve, not to allow some distant organization to extract the profits of our work while contributing nothing themselves.

I have seen patients pushed to the PBM owned mail order pharmacies that do not care for their patients in the way a local pharmacy does; these mail order stores direct their patients to us for their medication questions and counseling services. I have seen the impact on patients' health by restricting access to services and essential medication like insulin; by covering no insulin product to get around the \$35 of **COVERED** insulin required by the Inflation Reduction Act. I hope that the profession can separate itself from the pain inflicted by PBMs and regulatory bodies will consider swift action to ensure patient access to affordable health services directly in their community. Without swift action, the reduction of healthcare services will continue, and pharmacy deserts will grow larger and impact our patients and communities.

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