

Upper Payment Limits

Prescription drug affordability boards want to reduce spending on prescription drugs. To do this, they cap drug prices by setting upper payment limits.

But instead of lowering costs for patients, they may actually:

- ↓ **Decrease** patient access
- ↑ **Increase** out-of-pocket spending

A Complicated System

Implementing upper payment limits takes a narrow view of a complex problem. For example:



If a pharmacy can't recoup what it pays for a prescription drug, it may not be able to carry that medication anymore.



If a wholesaler can't afford to distribute a medication, shelves might stay empty.



If pharmacy benefit managers can't engage in reasonable negotiations for a drug, it may disappear from a health plans' formulary.



If costs to health plans change, insurers may implement policies that limit access to medications or increase patients' out-of-pocket costs.

Patients Pay the Price

Where does this leave patients? Frustrated, and without their treatment as their symptoms worsen.

It's time to create policies that will actually lower patients' costs, improve health outcomes and boost their quality of life.

