



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: NEW REPORT FINDS CANCER TREATMENT IN HOSPITALS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN IN COMMUNITY PRACTICE SETTINGS
Report Shines Harsh Light on Hospital Consolidation and the Impact on Patients

WASHINGTON -- The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) [released a report](#) last week on the costs of cancer treatment depending on the site of care. **The report found that across various types of cancer profiles, the cost of cancer care for patients treated in the community clinic setting is about \$8,000 less expensive per month than treatment in the hospital-based setting.*** Looked at another way, the total cost of care for cancer patients receiving chemotherapy delivered in the hospital outpatient setting is nearly 60 percent, or \$90,144, per year more expensive than the same treatment delivered in independent, community oncology practices.

While this news of less expensive care in the community clinic setting is welcome, the growing inaccessibility to these community clinics due to provider consolidation is alarming. As the report notes, “the cost differential based on site of care delivery is particularly concerning as emerging data have demonstrated a rapidly evolving downward shift in access to community-based oncology care sites.”

Recent abuse of the 340B Drug Discount Program exacerbates the inaccessibility issue raised by the new COA report. Large 340B hospitals have been buying up smaller competitors, like community clinics, to expand the reach of the 340B program and increase their profits. But this hasn't translated into increased charity care for their local communities, as the program intended. Instead, patients are forced to seek medicines and treatments through the nearest hospital, where care, as this COA report points out, is more expensive.

COA's report shines a harsh light on the increasing downsides of consolidation within our local health care systems. Without strong oversight and clearer standards, programs like 340B continue to worsen the problem and ultimately, harm patients' access to treatment and care.

To learn more about the growing issues with care consolidation and the 340B program, visit www.340Breform.org.

*[COA Report](#): “The Value of Community Oncology – Site of Care Cost Analysis,” 9/25/17, Page 15

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The Alliance for Integrity and Reform of 340B (AIR 340B) is a coalition of patient advocacy groups, clinical care providers, and biopharmaceutical innovators dedicated to reforming and strengthening the 340B program to ensure it directly supports access to outpatient prescription medicines for uninsured indigent patients. www.340Breform.org