



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: Hospital System Calls for Fixes to 340B Drug Discount Program

Health System in Georgia Voices Support for Updates to 340B While New Study Shows Necessity of Fixes to the Program

While some have vehemently opposed any fixes to the 340B drug discount program, some health systems are now calling for changes that would increase accountability within the program and get 340B back to caring for the vulnerable communities it was intended to serve.

Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta recently [sent a letter](#) to House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden noting how the 340B program today “is deeply flawed,” and “needs to be improved so the original intent of the program is followed by all.” Piedmont argues that their system is “put at a competitive disadvantage” by other health systems that misuse the program. The letter calls for “common-sense and meaningful reforms” to the 340B drug discount program.

This comes on the heels of a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), which adds to the growing body of evidence that 340B has strayed significantly from its original intent. The full study, “[Consequences of the 340B Drug Pricing Program](#),” notes that the program creates incentives to acquire hematology and oncology practices. According to the NEJM study, “financial gains for [340B] hospitals have not been associated with clear evidence of expanded care or lower mortality among low-income patients.”

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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