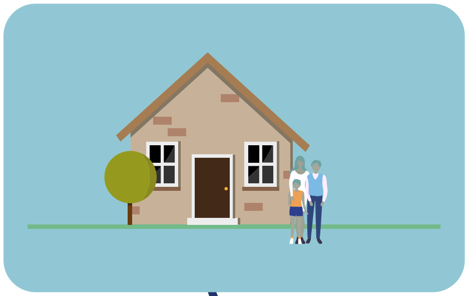
A Patient's Journey: How PBM-Owned 340B Contract Pharmacies Worsened Jordan's Medication Access

AIR 340B
Alliance for Integrity & Reform

Profit margins for 340B brand medicines dispensed at contract pharmacies are often much higher than non-340B medicines dispensed through independent pharmacies. The average profit margin for brand respiratory agents dispensed at 340B contract pharmacies is 67% - putting profit in the pockets of hospitals, chain pharmacies and PBMs instead of back into the pockets of patients.

Let's take a look at what this could mean for a 340B patient.



Jordan lives in the suburbs of Atlanta with their spouse and teenage son. A few months ago, a surprise asthma attack landed Jordan in the hospital where they were diagnosed with adult-onset asthma and prescribed a medication. Jordan has been feeling much better using the treatment regularly, but they were just laid off from their job and have lost their insurance coverage.

When Jordan goes to their usual chain pharmacy to fill their prescription, they are told that without insurance, the pharmacy, which is owned by a major pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) and contracts with the 340B hospital Jordan visited, will charge Jordan the full price for their respiratory medicine.

Jordan is forced to cut into their family's savings to afford their medication. The 340B hospital receives a 60% discount on the treatment, raking in a handsome profit from charging the full price for the medication. Their contract pharmacy and the PBM who owns it are paid a profitable dispensing fee. Everyone seems to benefit from this transaction, except Jordan and their family.

Learn more about the 340B Drug Pricing Program and how we can make it work for patients:
340Breform.org