



# Prescription Medicines: Costs in Context

*Presentation to the New Mexico Legislative Health  
and Human Services Interim Committee*

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# Who is PhRMA?

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America



# We are in a New Era of Medicine Where Breakthrough Science is Transforming Patient Care

**60 new medicines were approved by the FDA in 2021.**



## Cancer Treatments

Cancer mortality rates continue to decline amid 'major progress' in lung cancer early detection and treatment



## Game Changer

Newly approved drug being called 'game changer' for people who suffer from hemophilia

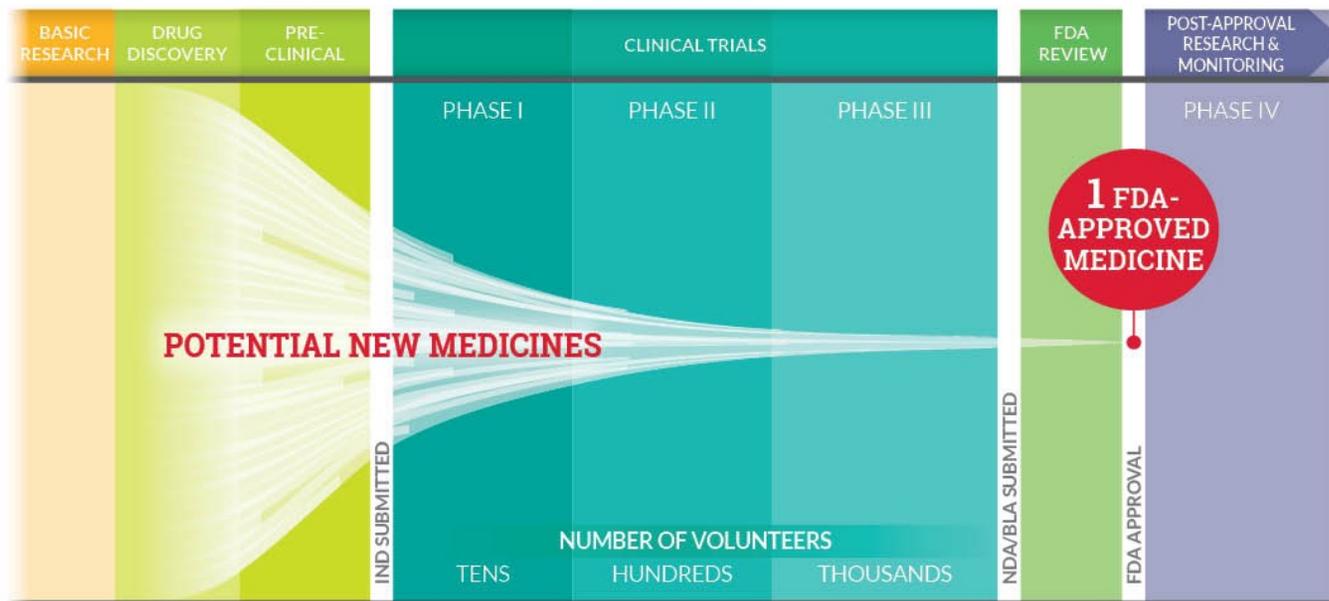


## Coronavirus Treatments

FDA authorizes new Covid antibody drug to fight omicron variant

# The R&D Process for New Drugs Is Lengthy, and Costly, with a High Risk of Failure

From drug discovery through FDA approval, developing a new medicine takes, on average, 10 to 15 years and costs \$2.6 billion. Less than 12% of the candidate medicines that make it into Phase I clinical trials are approved by the FDA.



Key: IND=Investigational new drug application, NDA=New drug application, BLA=Biologics license application

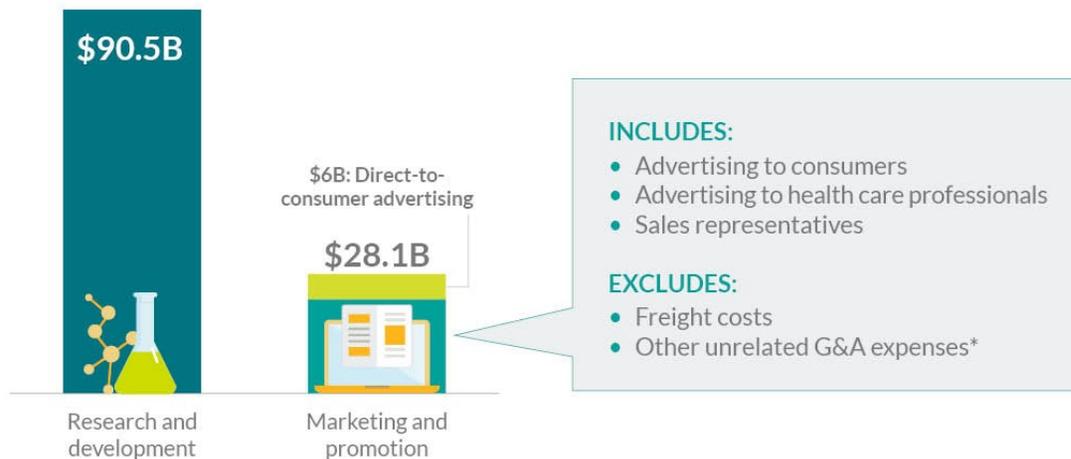
\*The average R&D cost required to bring a new FDA-approved medicine to patients is estimated to be \$2.6 billion over the past decade (in 2013 dollars), including the cost of the many potential medicines that do not make it through to FDA approval.

Sources: PhRMA adaptation of DiMasi JA et al<sup>12</sup>; Tufts CSDD<sup>13</sup>; FDA<sup>14</sup>

# Industry Actually Spends 3x more on R&D vs DTC

**Inflated estimates of marketing and promotion spending has created the false impression that the biopharmaceutical industry spends more on marketing than on R&D. More precise estimates show the opposite to be true.**

Select US Biopharmaceutical Industry Expenses, 2016



\*Indicates general and administrative (G&A) expenses unrelated to marketing and promotion, such as finance and office staffs, rent, utilities, and supplies. Some have inaccurately used sales and G&A expenses as a proxy for industry marketing and promotion expenses.

# Medicine Prices Fell and Medicine Spending Grew Under Inflation After Rebates and Discounts in 2020

## Brand Medicine Prices

## Medicine Spending



**2.9%**

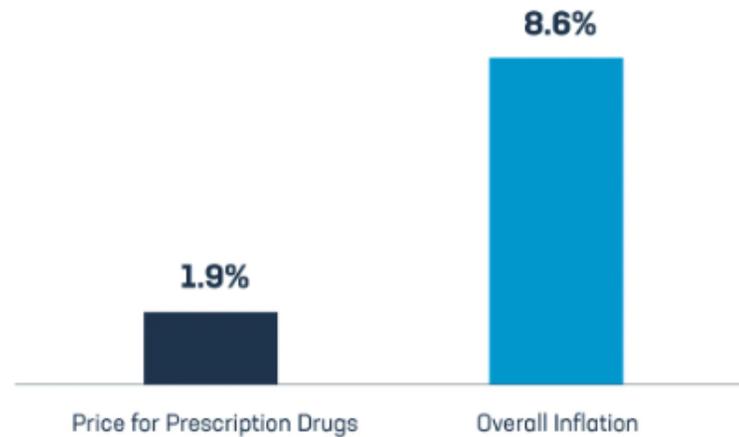
decline

**0.8%**

increase

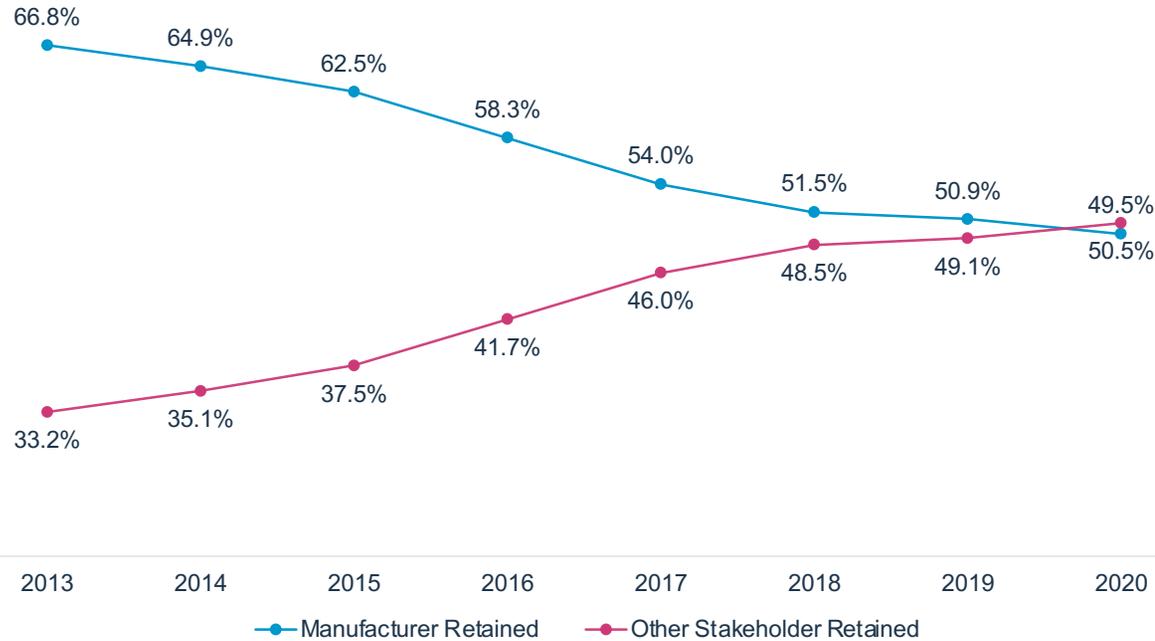
# Medicine Prices Continued to Grow Below the Rate of Inflation in 2021

**Annual Overall and Prescription Drug Inflation**  
(May 2021-22, 12-month rolling average)



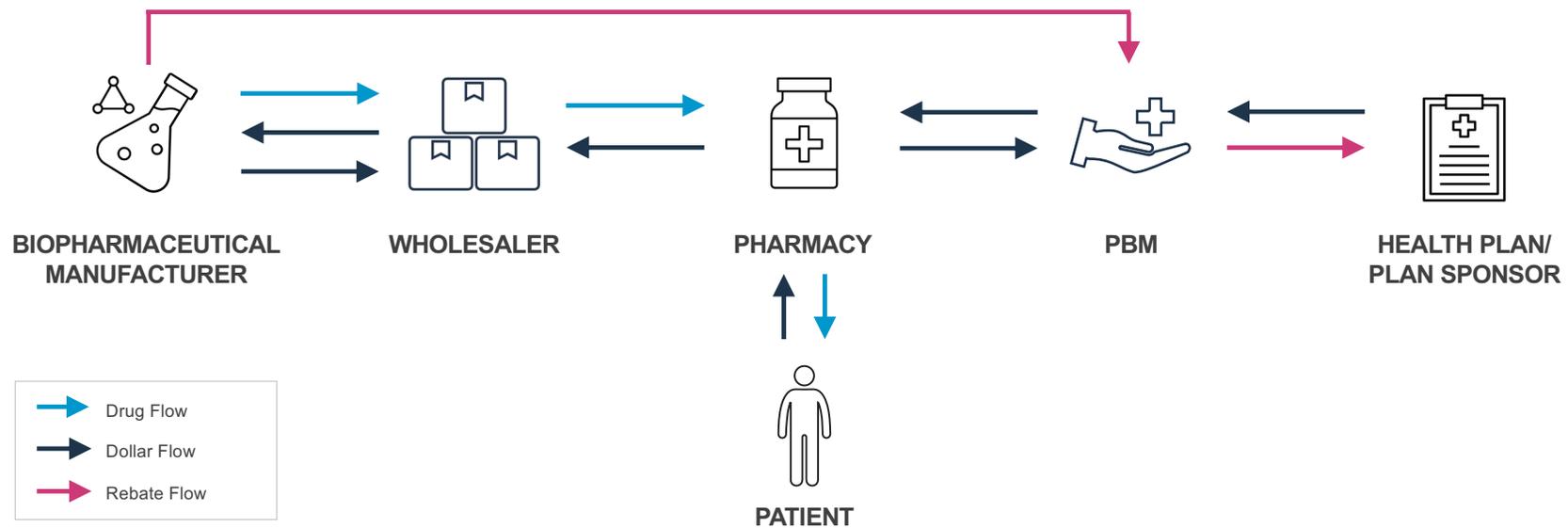
# More than half of every \$1 spent on brand medicines went to non-manufacturer stakeholders in 2020

### Total Brand Medicine Spending (\$B) by Manufacturer and Other Stakeholders, 2013-2020



**2020** marks the first year on record that the supply chain and other stakeholders received a **larger share of total brand medicine spending than the companies that developed them.**

# Many Stakeholders Have a Role in the Prescription Medicine Supply Chain



# Vertical Consolidation in PBM Market

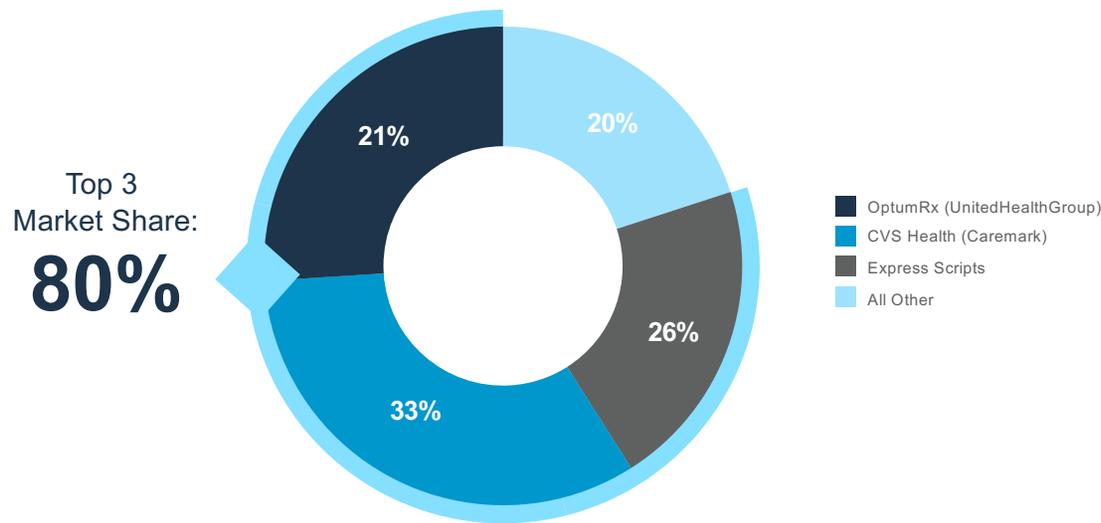


1. Cigna partners with providers via its Cigna Collaborative Care program. However, Cigna does not directly own healthcare providers.  
 2. AllianceRx Walgreens Prime is jointly owned by Prime Therapeutics and Walgreens Boots Alliance.  
 3. Since 2020, Prime sources formulary rebates via Ascent Health Services. In 2021, Humana began sourcing formulary rebates via Ascent Health Services for its commercial plans.  
 Source: Drug Channels Institute research; Companies are listed alphabetically by insurer name.

This chart appears as Exhibit 210 in *The 2021 Economic Report on U.S. Pharmacies and Pharmacy Benefit Managers*. Available at <http://drugch.nl/pharmacy>

# Insurers and PBMs Have a Lot of Leverage to Hold Down Medicine Costs

Negotiating power is increasingly concentrated among fewer pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs).



## Insurers determine:

### FORMULARY

if a medicine is covered

### TIER PLACEMENT

patient cost sharing

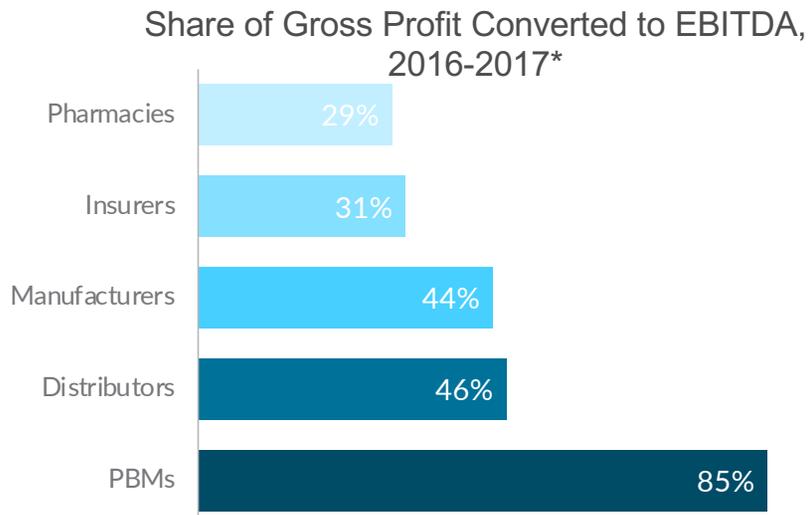
### ACCESSIBILITY

utilization management through prior authorization or fail first

### PROVIDER INCENTIVES

preferred treatment guidelines and pathways

# PBM Profit Margins Are Well Above Others in the Medicine Distribution and Supply Chain



\*Calculated as EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) margin divided by gross margin



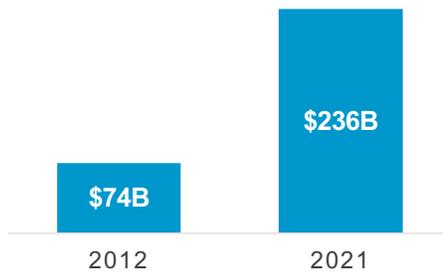
Analysts at Bernstein tried to get a better picture of how profitable these [supply chain] companies are by excluding the cost of the drugs that are included in their revenue. . . . By this analysis, pharmacy-benefit managers are exceptionally profitable.”

**Charley Grant, *Wall Street Journal***

# Rebates and Discounts Lower the Net Prices of Medicines

## Increasing Discounts and Rebates

Rebates, discounts, fees, and other price concessions have tripled since 2012



## Large Difference Between List and Net Prices

On average, a brand medicine's net price is

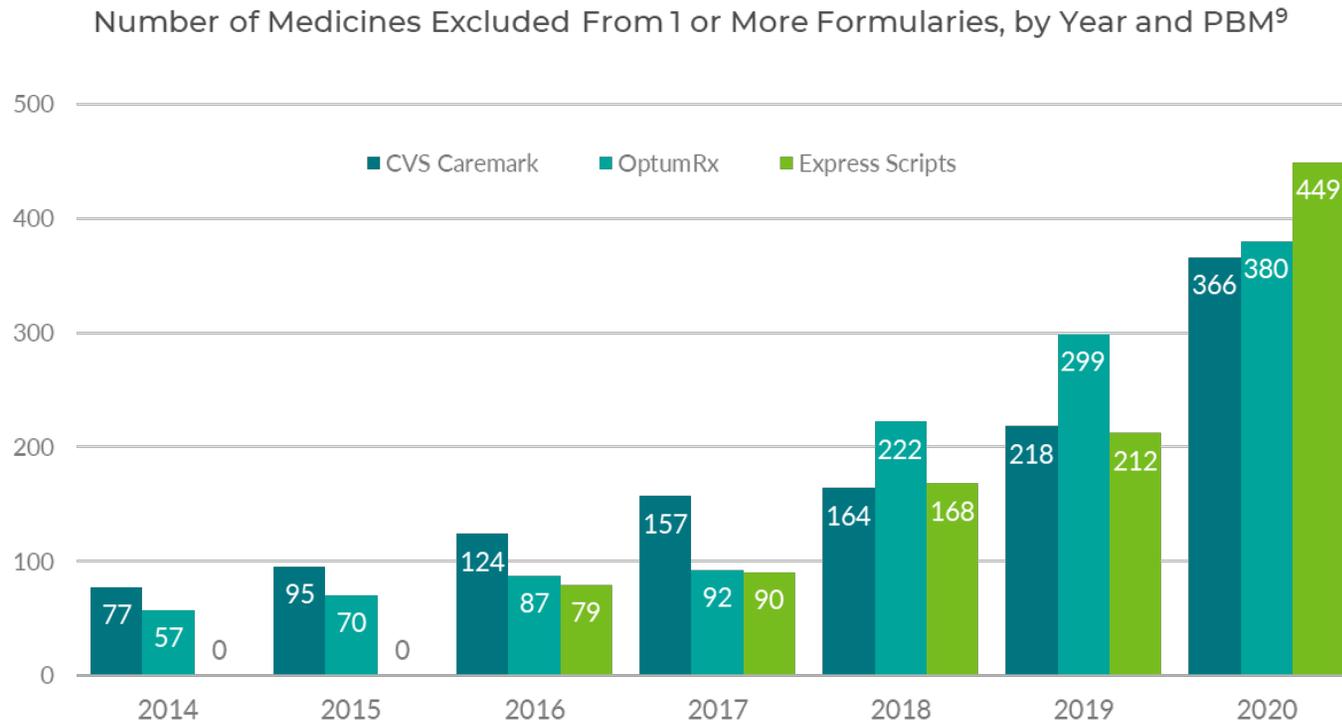
**49%**  
**lower**

than its list price

Source: IQVIA. Use of Medicines in the U.S. 2022.

# PBM Formulary Exclusions

**PBM actions can interrupt the continuity of a patient's treatment as well as their provider's ability to make prescribing decisions that best meet the patient's needs.**

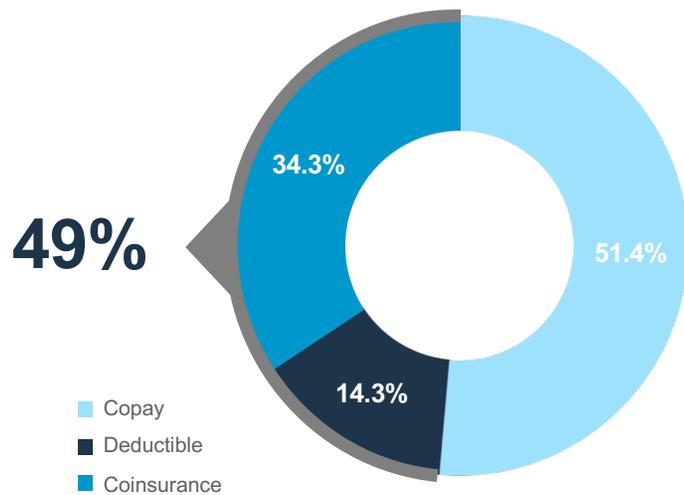


Sources: Tufts CSDD<sup>8</sup>; Xcenda<sup>9</sup>

# Too Often, Negotiated Savings Do Not Make Their Way to Patients at the Pharmacy Counter

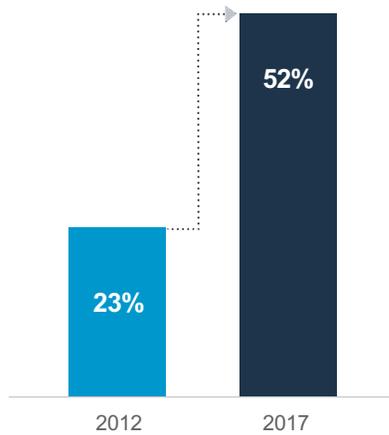
Half of commercially insured patients' out-of-pocket spending for brand medicines is based on the full list price

Cost sharing for nearly 1 in 10 brand prescriptions is based on list price

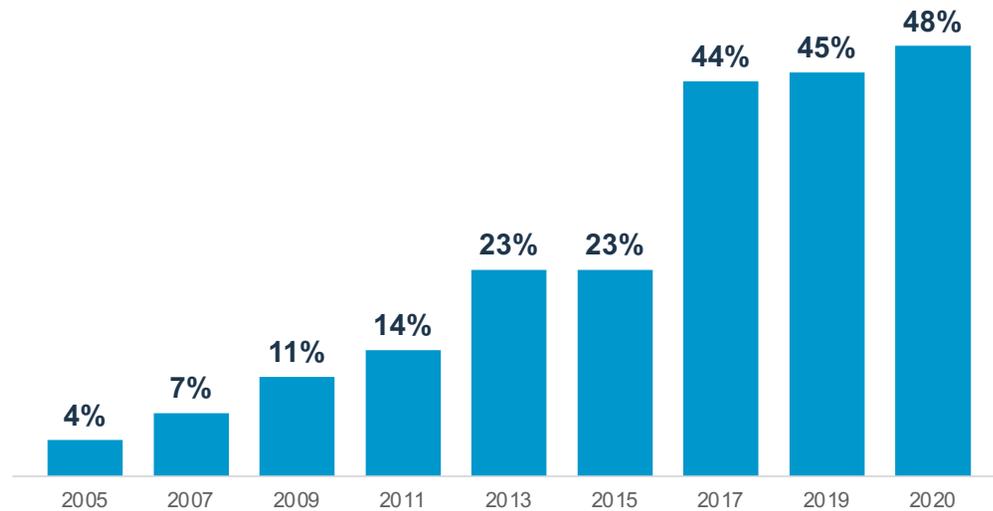


# Insurers are Increasingly Shifting Costs to Patients Through the Use of Deductibles and Coinsurance

Percent of plans with deductibles on prescription drugs



The use of four or more cost-sharing tiers is becoming more common on employer plans



## Trends in Employer Insurance Costs, 2010–20: New Mexico

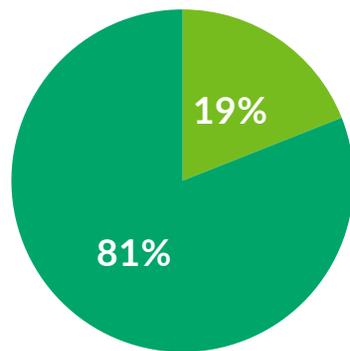
|  | Year            |                 |                 |                 | Average annual change |             |             |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | 2010            | 2015            | 2019            | 2020            | 2010–20               | 2015–20     | 2019–20     |
| <b>Employee Premium Contributions &amp; Deductibles — Weighted for Family Type Distribution<br/>(% of median income)</b> |                 |                 |                 |                 |                       |             |             |
| <b>Employee Premium Contribution<sup>2</sup></b>   |                 |                 |                 |                 |                       |             |             |
| <b>New Mexico</b>  | <b>\$3,225</b>  | <b>\$3,705</b>  | <b>\$5,052</b>  | <b>\$5,173</b>  | <b>4.8%</b>           | <b>6.9%</b> | <b>2.4%</b> |
|  | (7%)            | (8%)            | (10%)           | (11%)           |                       |             |             |
| <i>United States</i>   | \$2,975         | \$3,849         | \$4,606         | \$4,813         | 4.9%                  | 4.6%        | 4.5%        |
|  | (6%)            | (7%)            | (7%)            | (7%)            |                       |             |             |
| <b>Employee Deductible Costs<sup>2</sup></b>   |                 |                 |                 |                 |                       |             |             |
| <b>New Mexico</b>  | <b>\$1,604</b>  | <b>\$2,434</b>  | <b>\$3,395</b>  | <b>\$3,537</b>  | <b>8.2%</b>           | <b>7.8%</b> | <b>4.2%</b> |
|  | (4%)            | (5%)            | (7%)            | (7%)            |                       |             |             |
| <i>United States</i>   | \$1,713         | \$2,573         | \$3,199         | \$3,257         | 6.6%                  | 4.8%        | 1.8%        |
|  | (3%)            | (4%)            | (5%)            | (5%)            |                       |             |             |
| <b>Employee Premium Contribution + Deductible Costs<sup>2</sup></b>  |                 |                 |                 |                 |                       |             |             |
| <b>New Mexico</b>  | <b>\$4,829</b>  | <b>\$6,139</b>  | <b>\$8,447</b>  | <b>\$8,710</b>  | <b>6.1%</b>           | <b>7.2%</b> | <b>3.1%</b> |
|  | (11%)           | (13%)           | (17%)           | (18%)           |                       |             |             |
| <i>United States</i>   | \$4,688         | \$6,422         | \$7,806         | \$8,070         | 5.6%                  | 4.7%        | 3.4%        |
|  | (9%)            | (11%)           | (12%)           | (12%)           |                       |             |             |
| <b>Median Income</b>   |                 |                 |                 |                 |                       |             |             |
| <b>New Mexico</b>  | <b>\$44,000</b> | <b>\$46,000</b> | <b>\$48,620</b> | <b>\$48,027</b> |                       |             |             |
| <i>United States</i>   | \$51,410        | \$58,000        | \$68,063        | \$69,804        |                       |             |             |



The  
Commonwealth  
Fund

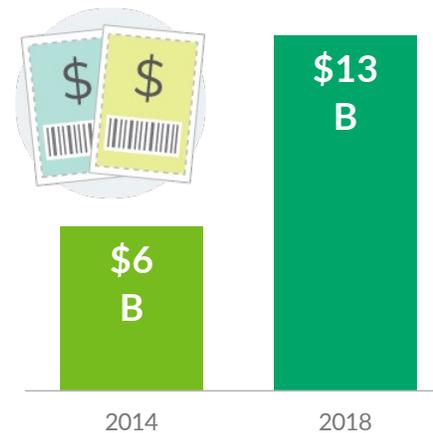
# Manufacturer Cost Sharing Assistance Is an Important Source of Financial Help for Commercially Insured Patients

*Percentage of Commercially Insured Patients Using Manufacturer Cost Sharing Assistance for Brand Drugs, 2018<sup>16</sup>*



- Using cost sharing assistance
- Not using cost sharing assistance

*Manufacturer Cost Sharing Assistance Helps Commercially Insured Patients Pay Out-of-Pocket Costs<sup>16</sup>*



# PhRMA Created the Medicine Assistance Tool, or MAT, To Help Patients Navigate Medicine Affordability

**MAT makes it easier for those struggling to afford their medicines to find and learn more about various programs that can make prescription medicines more affordable.**

## The Medicine Assistance Tool Includes:

A search engine to connect patients with

**950+**

assistance programs offered by biopharmaceutical companies, including some free or nearly free options



Resources to help patients navigate their insurance coverage



Links to biopharmaceutical company websites where information about the cost of a prescription medicine is available

# Negotiations of Supplemental Rebates

## Supplemental rebates could significantly reduce New Mexico's drug spending.

- Medicaid rebates are statutorily determined.
  - For brand name drugs, the rebate is 23.1% of Average Manufacturer Price (AMP) or the difference between AMP and the manufacturer's "best price"\* for a drug, whichever is greater.
- SB253 (2002)<sup>1</sup> gave New Mexico the authority to negotiate supplemental rebate arrangements with manufacturers.
- 47 states and the District of Columbia participate in supplemental rebate arrangements with manufacturers.<sup>2</sup>
- Negotiating supplemental rebates in New Mexico Medicaid could save \$6-12 million annually.<sup>3</sup>

\*Best price is defined as generally the lowest price available to any wholesaler, retailer, or provider, excluding prices paid by certain government programs, such as the US Department of Veterans Affairs and discounts negotiated under Medicare Part D.

<sup>1</sup> NM Code: 2002 N.M. Laws ch. 105 (codified at N.M. Stat. § 27-2C-4(A)).

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Medicaid Pharmacy Supplemental Rebate Agreements as of March 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Center For American Progress. Policies to reduce prescription drug spending. June 2019.

# “Delinking” Supply Chain Compensation From the Price of Medicines Would Better Align Incentives in the System

**Rather than receiving compensation based on the price of a medicine, supply chain entities should receive a fixed fee based on the services they provide.**

## Today: Current System

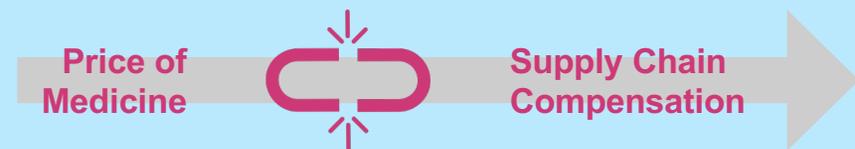
Compensation for supply chain entities is often tied to the price of a medicine.



When the price of a medicine goes up, supply chain payments go up.

## Tomorrow: With “Delinking” Reforms

Supply chain members receive fixed fees based on the services they provide.



No relationship between supply chain compensation and the price of a medicine.

## Policies That Help *Patients Pay Less*



Share the savings



Make coupons count



Offer lower cost-sharing options



Cover medicines from day one



Hard-dollar cost sharing caps