

340B DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM: A GOOD IDEA GONE BAD



WHAT IS THE 340B DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM?

It's an obscure, but important federal program that provides substantial discounts—upwards of 50 percent—on drugs to certain organizations. Community oncology centers are not eligible to receive 340B discounts.



WHO GETS THESE DISCOUNTS?

The program's discounts are supposed to support health care organizations that treat high numbers of uninsured, poor, or vulnerable patients—including community health centers, hemophilia treatment centers, black lung clinics, and non-profit hospitals.



IS THE PROGRAM WORKING?

Not as it was originally intended. While 340B achieves its intended goal in certain health care settings, some hospitals have been abusing the program's savings to increase their profits and gain market share. This is shrinking our nation's cancer care system and raising prices for everyone.



CAN HOSPITALS DO THAT?

Unlike other health care facilities receiving 340B discounts, hospitals don't have to report how they use the discounts. They don't even have to show they are using the savings to help patients.



HOW BIG OF AN ISSUE IS THIS?

The lack of transparency and accountability in the 340B program has caused it to explode in hospitals. Today, nearly 50 percent of them participate.



HOW DO COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY PATIENTS LOSE?

When 340B is abused to generate profits instead of help institutions care for patients, the cancer care system and patients suffer. The actions of some hospitals have fueled consolidation and community oncology clinic closures—nearly 400 have closed nationally since 2008. This means less choice and convenience and higher costs.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THE ABUSE?

Stopping 340B abuse starts with **making your voice heard.**

Tell your members of congress: 340B reform proposals are good for patients and taxpayers and deserve your strong support.

www.communityoncology.org/340B

