

PDAB ALTERNATIVES & KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR STATES



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Given the growing concern over prescription drug affordability, many state legislators are considering measures that can directly lower consumer's prescription drug costs. To address affordability, many legislatures are considering the value of prescription drug affordability boards (PDABs). While PDABs could potentially have an impact on consumer prescription drug affordability in the future, legislators should consider other measures that could have an immediate and proven impact on health care consumer's affordability and access. Moreover, for those pursuing PDAB legislation, Aimed Alliance's below resource offers key considerations to ensure any PDAB legislation directly improves health care affordability for consumers. Learn more about PDABs by reviewing [Aimed Alliance's fact sheet](#) on PDABs: Challenges and Alternatives.

Non-PDAB Alternatives to Address Consumer Health Care Affordability	Key Considerations for States Moving Forward with PDABs
<p>Prior Authorization Reform: Pass legislation that reduces prior authorization burdens on health care professionals and protects health care consumers from unnecessary delays in access to treatments. Learn more by reading Aimed Alliance's Gold Card resource.</p> <p>Step Therapy Reform: Pass legislation that prohibits plans from requiring consumers to try and fail on medications they've previously failed on; prohibit off-label stepping; prohibit trying and failing for more than 30 days; and enact other consumer protections that ensure an individual can be exempt from a step therapy protocol when it would be detrimental to their health. Check out National Psoriasis Foundation's Resource to learn which states have passed step therapy reform.</p> <p>Copay Accumulator Reform: Pass legislation that requires plans to count all cost-sharing paid, by or on behalf of an individual, to count towards their deductibles and annual limits on cost-sharing. Twenty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have already recognized that banning the use of copay accumulators in state-regulated plans can have a direct impact on consumer affordability and health care costs. Visit Aimed Alliance's Copay Accumulator 101 Hub to learn more.</p> <p>PBM Reform: PBM reform can encompass various measures, such as enhancing transparency surrounding prescription drug prices; prohibiting the use of mandated mail-order pharmacies; preventing higher reimbursements for PBM-owned pharmacies compared to non-affiliated pharmacies; and requiring protections to maintain access to local pharmacies. These measures collectively help ensure stable access to treatments for consumers and can directly address concerns about prescription drug affordability and costs.</p>	<p>Require a consumer/patient representative to be included in the board membership: Currently, no state PDAB requires board membership to include health care consumers or patients. Consequently, boards may overlook the needs of patients, caregivers, and providers, and may experience challenges in engaging these communities. The inclusion of a consumer or patient representative and selection of an individual to fulfill this role should also consider the value of this individual having lived experiences in chronic, complex, or rare disorders, as well as professional or lived experience in health equity, disability rights, and/or disability and racial justice.</p> <p>Require a mandated process for continued consumer engagement: Currently, no PDAB requires a specific process for engaging health care consumers and the public. While some boards are required to establish "advisory councils" that include relevant stakeholders such as patients, patient advocates, and members of the prescription drug industry, there are no requirements as to how these councils are to be engaged, how their feedback is valued, or the frequency of their engagement with the board. As such, PDAB legislation should include clearer requirements as to how boards should engage consumers and impose a continuous obligation to seek community input and feedback.</p> <p>Prioritize the role of the patient's voice and lived experience throughout the drug review process: As the ultimate recipients of these medications, patients play a crucial role in evaluating the value of these treatments. Engaging patients throughout the drug selection and affordability review processes will provide PDABs with valuable insights into disease management, access barriers, treatment preferences, and other relevant factors related to the selected medications.</p> <p>Require payors and PBMs to pass UPL-derived cost savings to patients: UPLs serve as a limit to what payors can reimburse for a drug. Consequently, without precise legislative language mandating that these cost savings be passed down to consumers, payors are likely to retain the benefits of these savings without alleviating the financial burden on patients. Thus, legislators should incorporate statutory language that requires any cost savings resulting from UPLs to be passed on to consumers through either reduced prescription drug costs, lowered cost-sharing requirements, or decreased premiums.</p>