

The PUTTbulletin



IT'S TIME TO GET LOUD ABOUT PBM REFORM

Join the Protest Against OptumRx: Stand Up for Patient Access and Fair PBM Business Practices!

Healthcare is a fundamental human right. When patients are sick, they need access to their pharmacy and their medication immediately - not by mail order, and not from a pharmacy they didn't choose for themselves.

For decades, vertically integrated PBMs like OptumRx and its parent, UnitedHealth Group, have flagrantly prioritized profits over patients and pharmacies - intentionally squeezing independent pharmacies out of business, leaving swathes of pharmacy deserts in their wake and patients with fewer options.

This is why we are calling on everyone to join us in a public protest against OptumRx on [Friday, September 13th](#). Your voice matters in this crucial fight! Here's why...

Scan the QR to
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on Medium



Get Loud

Fight For Change: Join PUTT for the 2024 OptumRx Protest

The logo for 'UnitedDoesn'tcare' features a stylized 'U' made of three vertical bars of increasing height, followed by the text 'UnitedDoesn'tcare' in a serif font.

UnitedDoesn'tcare
Protest OptumRx

Scan the QR to Learn More &
Securely Register to Join

A QR code is positioned below the text, with a red arrow pointing from the text to the QR code.A red arrow curves from the text 'Securely Register to Join' down and to the left, pointing towards the QR code.

"...The aim of the protest is to call out years of questionable practices that have resulted in numerous documented cases of patient harm, independent pharmacy closures, and the little evidence of cost savings at the pharmacy counter that OptumRx and its fellow 'Big 3' PBMs' promise," said Monique Whitney, PUTT's Executive Director. "We can no longer afford to remain silent. We must call out the ways in which OptumRx and the other giant, vertically integrated PBMs have helped themselves to outsized profits at the expense of the American industry and taxpayers."

HOW PBMS (REALLY) WORK



When Payers Become Producers: Inside the PBM Private-Labeling Trend

Benjamin reviews the growing trend of PBMs vertically integrating into the production of biosimilars. He shares data from an MMIT survey of 20 large national payers, independent plans, Blues affiliates and PBMs (excluding participants).

READ THE ARTICLE ON DRUG CHANNELS



Hot Summer Threatens Efficacy of Mail-Order Medications

The temperatures inside delivery trucks can reach twice the recommended threshold, but federal rules on drug storage conditions do not apply to the booming world of mail-order delivery.

READ THE ARTICLE ON THE NYT

ACCESS A PDF OF THIS ARTICLE



Untangling The \$500 Billion PBM Web: The Opaque Relationship Between Employers And Drug Middlemen

On the heels of the FTC's investigation into pharmacy benefit managers for what many regard as anti-competitive business practices, legal pressure is continuing to mount.

READ THE ARTICLE ON FORBES

ACCESS A PDF OF THIS ARTICLE



The National Consumers League has released a one-pager debunking PBMs' claims and the truth about their practices

CLICK HERE FOR A DOWNLOADABLE VERSION OF NCL'S PBM LIES 1-PAGER

LEGALITIES & LAWSUITS



Feds Killed Plan To Curb Medicare Advantage Overbilling After Industry Opposition

The 2014 decision by CMS, and events related to it, are at the center of a multibillion-dollar Justice Department civil fraud case against UnitedHealth Group pending in federal court in Los Angeles.

READ THIS ARTICLE ON KFF HEALTH



Arkansas orders four pharmacy benefit managers to pay \$1.47M in fines for underpaying drugstores

Arkansas officials ordered four nationwide pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to stop paying Arkansas pharmacies below the legally required amount for prescription drugs and to pay a cumulative \$1.47 million in fines for having done so, according to a news release from Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders' office.

READ THIS ARTICLE ON AR ADVOCATE



Pharmacy middlemen face new allegations of skimming

When shadowy pharmacy middlemen started in 2019 to create yet another layer of middlemen, critics suspected they would be used to avoid transparency and skim even more money from the interstices of arcane — but wildly lucrative — drug transactions. Now evidence is accumulating that it might be happening.

READ THE ARTICLE ON OCJ



NEWS & STORIES



TRICARE becomes part of fight over pharmacy benefit managers

Independent pharmacies leave military health insurance program over low reimbursement rates

READ THIS ARTICLE ON ROLL CALL



Chairman Comer Calls on PBM Executives to Correct Hearing Testimony

At the House Oversight Committee's hearing, the PBM chief executives made statements that contradict the Committee's and the Federal Trade Commission's findings about the PBMs' self-benefitting practices that jeopardize patient care, undermine local pharmacies, and raise prescription drug prices.

READ THE ARTICLE ON HOC WEBSITE



CLICK HERE TO WATCH PBM ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT'S COMPILATION OF PBM EXEC MISLEADING STATEMENTS DURING TESTIMONY

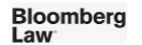


What policies could be affected by the Chevron ruling?

Lawsuits are expected from all corners of the healthcare industry after the Supreme Court overturned decades of deference to federal agencies, adding uncertainty into the regulatory landscape.

READ THIS ARTICLE IN MH MAGAZINE

ACCESS A PDF OF THIS ARTICLE



More Employers Turning to Benefit Startups to Manage Drug Costs

More and more employers are migrating to smaller pharmacy benefit managers—which manage the prescription drug benefit of insurance plans—in an attempt to curb rising costs and comply with strengthened fiduciary duties. But ditching the industry giants can be scary in the complex world of drug negotiation and delivery, where the three major PBMs control 80% of the market.

READ THE ARTICLE ON BLOOMBERG LAW

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EAR CANDY

Say It Loud!



Join the August PBM Reform cocktail crew as they discuss PBM exec lies during the recent Congressional hearing, the FTC Open Commission meeting, and why applying pressure at both the state and federal levels is so critical to getting real, enforceable reform across the finish line!

Special Guest, Massachusetts pharmacy owner, Joe Chammas

LISTEN NOW



Listen in as Lord Dr Jeremy and the PBM OTR cocktail crew host special guests Mike Koelzer, host of The Business of Pharmacy podcast, and Thu Nguyen, co-host of the podcast Hey Rx Friends We Got This

LISTEN NOW



Catch PBM on the Rocks at TruthRx.org/pbm-on-the-rocks Or wherever you listen to your favorite podcasts

FED UP WITH PBM GREED-BASED PRACTICES YET?

If you care about the importance of passing PBM reform and holding corporations like OptumRx accountable, there's no better time to Use Your Voice!

CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE SEPTEMBER 13TH OPTUMRx PROTEST NOW!

Can't protest in person? Use your voice on social media with the hashtag #ProtestOptumRx



Scan the QR to Learn More & Join the Protest Now!

Want to receive the PUTTbulletin in your email each month?

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PUTT is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, which means your donation is tax-deductible. Donate to the only pharmacy organization 100% dedicated to the PBM reform fight

Join PUTT Today.

