

The PUTTbulletin



7 Days of PBM Reform and Resistance: A Rundown of the Week's Events

Are We Talking About the Same Middlemen? Following President Trump's announcement today of "TrumpRx", a new executive initiative to help lower patient drug costs, we thought for a minute the Chief Executive might have gotten pharmacies confused with PBMs. Currently there are not enough details to know exactly what TrumpRx is or how it would work, but we can all agree that patient safety cannot be compromised by removing access to trusted pharmacy professionals. True drug pricing reform begins by eliminating the perverse incentives PBMs achieve via manufacturer rebates, self-dealing plan designs, and PBM pharmacy ownership.

There They Go Again: When news broke that [PCMA was planning to propose changes to CMS](#) aimed at "lowering drug prices" and "increased pharmacy reimbursement", we worried the public - and the Trump Administration - might think genuine PBM reform was on the horizon.

But this is PCMA, and PCMA has a track record of suing whenever regulatory oversight is poised to interfere with its clients' ability to generate their famously outsized profits.

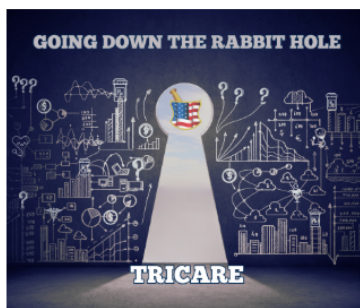
In 2021, [PCMA sued to stop the Trump Administration's "Rebate Rule"](#) — a regulation that would have eliminated safe harbor protection for drug rebates paid by manufacturers to PBMs and insurers in Medicare Part D and Medicaid managed care. That rule would have delivered point-of-sale discounts directly to patients at the pharmacy counter, representing a major win for consumers...

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Digging Deep

Your Move, America



TRICARE. You already know what's happening. You've seen the reimbursement rates. You've watched patients walk away empty-handed because their TRICARE plan won't let you fill their prescriptions. You've eaten the cost on both brands and generics while wondering how this could be real. You've weathered being paid \$0.84 in total to dispense. And you've kept showing up—because that's what pharmacists do. But knowing isn't enough anymore.

TRICARE isn't just broken. It's being weaponized. Against patients. Against independent pharmacies. Against the communities we serve. And the worst part? It's happening with taxpayer money, under federal contracts, with zero accountability.

This isn't just about bad math. It's about betrayal. Military families are being steered away from local pharmacies into mail-order warehouses owned by the same PBMs—and they're doing it intentionally. They know it's only a matter of time before you throw in the towel and say enough is enough and exit the network. Veterans are being denied access to care in their own towns. And every dollar that could've stayed in your local economy is being funneled to a corporate headquarters in another state... [Continue Reading](#)

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PUTT in the News



- [Price caps on medications will disrupt Oregon health care](#) | The Bend Bulletin (Monique Whitney, PUTT Executive Director)
- [Legislative Update: Independent Pharmacies](#) | MN State Representative Kaohly Vang Her (Deborah Keaveny, PUTT President, Andrew Russell, PUTT Board Member, John Hoeschen & Hildie Hoeschen, PUTT Members)
- [Report: Va. outpaces national Medicaid drug spending, but solutions are set to be tested next year](#) | Virginia Mercury (Jeremy Counts, PUTT Board Member)
- [Achieving PBM Reform Through Public Engagement, Advocacy](#) | Drug Topics (Bil Schmidtkecht, PUTT Friend)
- [FDA Cracks Down on Deceptive Drug Ads](#) | News Radio 740 KTRH (Monique Whitney, PUTT Executive Director)

Editor's Note: We love featuring PUTT members in our newsletter! Are you a member of PUTT that's been interviewed by a local or national news organization? Send us your coverage links at info@truthrx.org.

Advocacy Resources



PBMs... GPOs... vertical integration is swiftly turning the world of pharmacy into a murky alphabet soup of corporate layers of complexity - making it increasingly difficult for pharmacists to effectively explain the healthcare landscape to even the most informed of lawmakers.

Our friends at the PBM Accountability Project have put together a simple one-pager explaining one of those newer layers of complexity - GPOs. [Click here to download a copy now.](#)

Scan the QR to download a copy of the 1-pager:

PUTT is the only 501c3 nonprofit 100% dedicated to fighting against PBM anticompetitive business practices on behalf of pharmacies and their patients.

Donate Today at TruthRx.org/donate

News You Can SHARE

[Health Care Costs for Workers Begin to Climb](#) | The New York Times ([gift link](#))

[NCPA: More Than 125 Groups Urge Congress to Pass PBM Reform](#) | Drug Topics

[Why employers are moving away from the Big 3 PBMs](#) | Healthcare Brew

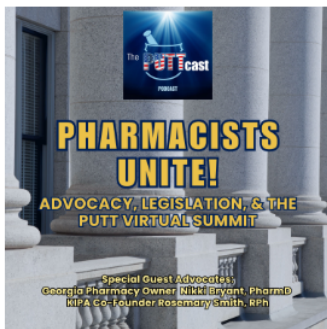
[Op-Ed: Transparency, not secretive PBMs, keep drug prices low](#) | Newsbreak

[Instead of improving access to health care, insurance restricts it. Here's how](#) | The Tennessean

[PBM reform, drug prices rank as top policy priorities for employers](#) | Benefits Pro

[Louisiana Breaks CVS Pharmacy Monopoly for State Workers in Historic 2026 Deal](#) | KPFL News Radio

Listening In



Join host Lauren Young, PUTT Executive Director Monique Whitney, and special guest advocates Nikki Bryant, PharmD, and Rosemary C Smith, RPh, as they explore the critical strategies independent pharmacies can use to amplify their voices and drive meaningful change. From building political connections to fostering trust within your community, listen in as they discuss how independent pharmacy owners can take charge of their advocacy efforts and make a lasting impact.

[LISTEN NOW](#)

Scan the QR to catch all episodes of the PUTTcast



Join Lord Dr Jeremy and the PUTT Cocktail Crew with special guest Nebraska pharmacist and pharmacy owner Dave Randolph, RPh, as they dive into the critical issues shaping the future of pharmacy and healthcare. From the power of building coalitions for effective state-level advocacy, to the importance of subject matter education for legislators, and the dangers of so-called "pharmacy industry innovation" led by tech bros with no pharmacy background, this episode is packed with no holds barred conversation and insights for anyone who cares about local community pharmacy.

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