

# Are Discounts in the 340B Drug Discount Program Being Shared with Patients at Contract Pharmacies?

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## Key points

**Importance:** The 340B Drug Discount Program is a federal program in which manufacturers provide Medicaid-like discounts on covered outpatient drugs to qualifying hospitals and clinics. Although manufacturers supplied \$93.6B of discounted product to 340B hospitals and clinics in 2021, little is known about whether there's any direct benefit to 340B patients filling prescriptions.

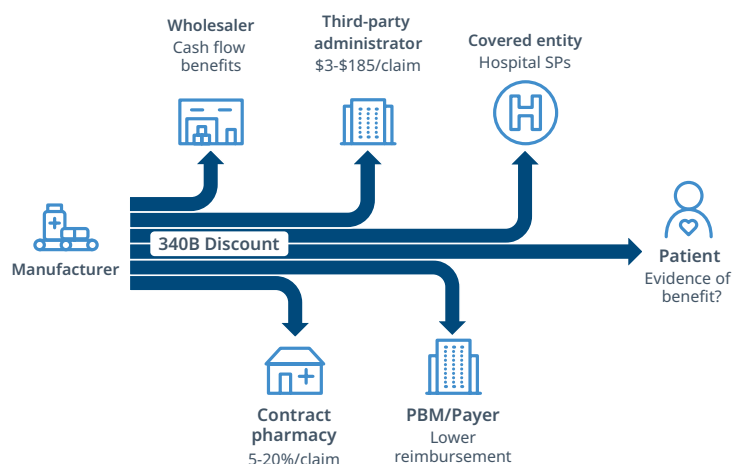
**Objective:** To test whether 340B discounts are directly shared with patients by studying the impact of 340B eligibility on patient out-of-pocket costs at contract pharmacies.

**Design:** A method for estimating 340B eligibility was developed and applied to IQVIA pharmacy claims data. In addition, we developed a method for identifying claims using a 340B prescription discount card, which is offered by third-party administrators and designed to share 340B discounts with patients.

**Data sources:** The study spanned 12 months and used a national sample of pharmacy claims for branded, patient-administered drugs.

**Results:** The only claims segment displaying substantial evidence of patient discount-sharing was the 1.4% of branded, 340B-eligible claims at contract pharmacies that used a 340B discount card. Here, patient out-of-pocket costs were reduced by 92.9%, with a mean reduction in patient out-of-pocket costs for 30 days of therapy of \$661.65.

**Conclusions:** These study findings demonstrate that 340B discount sharing with patients at the point of sale at contract pharmacies is possible, but that a potential solution—340B discount cards—has not been widely adopted.



The full IQVIA white paper can be found here:

<https://www.iqvia.com/locations/united-states/library/white-papers/are-discounts-in-the-340b-drug-discount-program>

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