

340B Helps Vulnerable Californians Lead Healthier Lives

Over 30 years ago, Congress established the 340B Drug Pricing Program to provide safety-net hospitals with financial relief from high prescription drug costs. No state or federal dollars are spent on the program and there is no cost to taxpayers. In California, 172 hospitals rely on 340B savings to provide essential medications and access to health care for California's most vulnerable populations.



How Savings from the 340B Drug Discount Program Support Patients, Families, and Communities.

■ Bringing Essential Care and Innovative Therapies to At-Risk Communities

UCLA Health used savings from the 340B program to support critical initiatives that serve at-risk communities across Southern California and the Central Coast. They partnered with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to offer in-kind medical and behavioral health services to veterans, addressing chronic homelessness. They set up a program for free health screenings in public schools and community locations, benefiting low-income and homeless populations. UCLA Health also funded innovative therapies such as CAR-T cell treatments, and operated a specialized ambulance, ensuring rapid, life-saving treatment for stroke victims.

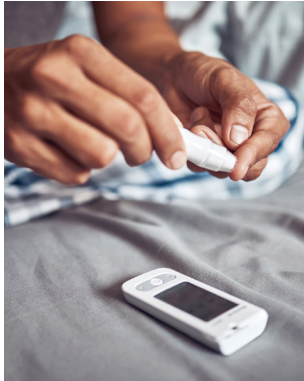
■ Enhancing Care for Cancer Patients in Rural Communities

Sutter Health in Northern California implemented programs for at-risk individuals and brought dedicated resources to patients in several rural communities. Sutter recruited a permanent oncologist based at Sutter Coast Hospital and supported infusion centers in Crescent City, Los Banos, and Jackson, providing cancer patients with essential therapies close to home. Sutter's East Bay AIDS Center at Alta Bates Medical Center offers vital health care services, education, and treatment related to HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C to around 2,000 patients each year. It's home to California's largest youth-specific HIV clinic. Sutter was also able to offer co-pay assistance programs, financial navigation services, and free medications for uninsured patients, saving them over \$2 million in co-pays annually.

How Does the 340B Program Work?

Under the 340B program, drug manufacturers participating in Medicaid sell outpatient drugs at discounted prices to health care organizations that care for significant numbers of uninsured and low-income patients. Health care organizations use the savings to provide or support:

- Low or no-cost medications
- Urban and rural primary care clinics
- Mobile health care clinics
- Vaccinations and flu shots
- Mental health services
- Medication management programs
- Community health programs
- Chemotherapy/infusion centers
- Hemophilia programs
- Hepatitis C treatment
- HIV clinics
- Diabetes screening and education programs
- Dental care
- Asthma management programs
- And more



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■ **Supporting At-Home Treatment for Patients**

Sharp HealthCare in San Diego used savings to support programs that prevent readmissions and make health care more accessible to those in need. *The Patient Assistance Program* provided underinsured and uninsured patients access to almost \$12 million in prescriptions, reducing readmissions and the need for frequent medical services. *Project H.E.L.P.* offered emergency financial aid, including free discharge medication vouchers, to patients and their families. *Sharp Home Infusion Services* educated patients being treated at-home about their conditions, with pharmacists monitoring progress. And the *Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Support* program ensured access to life-saving medications, preventing organ rejection, with pharmacists overseeing medication adherence and refill coordination.



For more information about the 340B program contact Anne O'Rourke, CHA Senior Vice President, Federal Relations, at aorourke@calhospital.org

■ **A Focus on At-Risk Youth, Diabetes, and Heart Health**

Northridge Hospital Medical Center in Los Angeles dedicated savings to support post-hospital care for un-housed patients and health education programs in the community. Through the *Homeless Patient Discharge program*, Northridge ensured homeless patients had a safe hospital discharge with coordinated care, clothing, meals, transportation, prescriptions, screenings, vaccines, and help with health plan enrollment. Their *National Diabetes Prevention Program* worked with pre-diabetic individuals offering guidance and education to prevent diabetes. And the *Activate Your Heart* initiative provided classes on heart disease prevention, stress management, exercise, smart grocery shopping, and nutrition education.