



BUILDING A BETTER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

PhRMA'S PATIENT-CENTERED AGENDA

A once-in-a-century global pandemic has reinforced the value of the scientific advances America's innovative and indispensable biopharmaceutical industry makes possible.

The breakthroughs in vaccine research and therapeutics to combat COVID-19 are built on a collaborative ecosystem that drives scientific discovery.

As Americans get vaccinated and we start to recover from this crisis, we need to build on what we've learned from COVID-19 and other challenges.

Our top priority is lowering barriers between our medical innovations and patients who need them.

America's biopharmaceutical industry is ready to do our part. We are willing to work with all stakeholders to deliver a stronger, more resilient, affordable and equitable health care system for all.

Common-sense, patient-centered reforms built on three core goals will help ensure everyone benefits from America's engine of innovation and gets the care they need and deserve.

1 *End the Pandemic & Build a More Resilient System.*

Our first order of business is to end the COVID-19 pandemic. We must also prepare for the challenges ahead. To do so, we need more of the innovation and discovery that led to the vaccines and a stronger scientific delivery system from top to bottom. **We can end the current pandemic and create a more resilient health care system for the future by:**

- **Fulfilling** the biopharmaceutical industry's commitment to help end the pandemic by expanding collaboration and manufacturing capacity and ensuring affordability and access to COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.
- **Enhancing** globally diverse biopharmaceutical manufacturing supply chains by fostering collaboration and advancing our R&D and manufacturing infrastructure.
- **Investing** in pandemic preparedness and planning by creating a robust, long-term national preparedness strategy, such as modernized data and reporting infrastructure and a fully developed vision for the Strategic National Stockpile.
- **Ensuring** a sustainable pipeline for new treatments to take on an emerging threat that's right before our eyes – rising antimicrobial resistance.

2 *Make Medicines More Affordable.*

Every reform must pass a simple test: does it benefit the patient and protect future innovation? Temporary fixes based on political rhetoric are destabilizing and counterproductive – only sustainable, patient-centered solutions will help those who need it the most. **We propose policies to make medicines more affordable by:**

- **Modernizing** how Medicare covers and pays for medicines, including capping out-of-pocket costs in Part D, lowering cost sharing and spreading those costs over the calendar year, and making sure the savings negotiated with health plans are passed to patients. It also includes implementing a market-based adjustment in Part B that would allow the government and seniors to benefit from more of the savings already negotiated in the commercial market, which could save some seniors hundreds – if not thousands – of dollars each year.
- **Making** insurance work like insurance by covering more medicines from day one, making out-of-pocket costs more predictable, ensuring cost-sharing assistance applies to deductibles and sharing negotiated savings with patients at the pharmacy counter.
- **Protecting** the safety net by maintaining coverage of medicines for vulnerable patients served by Medicaid and driving greater oversight and transparency of the 340B program to ensure that hospitals and other entities are using the discounts manufacturers provide to serve needy patients, not siphoning resources away from patients.
- **Ending** perverse incentives by tying the fees pharmaceutical supply chain middlemen charge to the services they provide, not the list price of a medicine, and fostering the competitive market for medicines while also providing needed incentives for continued biopharmaceutical innovation.

3 *Build a More Just, Equitable Health Care System.*

COVID-19 and the disproportionate impact it has had on communities of color has shown us that the time to fix inequities in our health care system is right now. Communities of color must finally receive the highest quality of care. Every patient deserves the opportunity to make rational and informed decisions about their own care. **We commit to industry action and to supporting policies that will build a more just, equitable health care system, including:**

- **Improving** clinical trial diversity and building an industry workforce as diverse as the communities we serve by encouraging a culture of inclusion and investments in educational pathways.
- **Investing** in rigorous data and measurement infrastructure by improving data collection and reporting that more accurately measures health disparities.
- **Promoting** best practices for improving equity in health care screenings, diagnosis and treatment.
- **Align** incentives with equity goals by supporting equity-focused quality metrics and equitable access to medicines for all communities.