Practical Solutions for Americans’ true affordability concerns

Americans are worried about health care costs

- Nearly one-in-five (18%) U.S. adults report that if they needed access to quality health care today, they would be unable to pay for it.¹
- Cost remains a barrier even for Americans with insurance – 80% reported that the amount they pay for health care seems to be going up every year.²
- More than 70% of voters struggle with the unpredictability of out-of-pocket costs and feel like insurance companies are nickel-and-diming them.³

Out-of-pocket costs are rising – especially for the sickest Americans

- 43% of U.S. adults had out-of-pocket costs (not including premiums) that equaled 10% of their household income,⁴ with high-need patients paying more than twice as much out-of-pocket than those without chronic conditions.⁵
- Adults with a deductible of $1,000 per year or more has doubled in the last year.⁶
- The amount commercial health plans require patients to pay annually for their brand medicines has increased by 50% or more since 2015 for some conditions like HIV.⁷

Negotiated discounts aren’t being passed on to patients

- The share of total spending on brand medicines that biopharmaceutical companies retain has been steadily declining as rebates and discounts have increased. Meanwhile, the amount hospitals, pharmacies and other health care providers retain on the sale of brand medicines nearly doubled between 2013 and 2018, increasing from $24.7 billion to $48.6 billion.⁸

Solutions Americans Support

- 84% of voters support requiring health insurance companies to be more transparent about what drugs are covered and what patients will pay out-of-pocket for prescription medicines.⁹
- 81% of voters want more predictability in how much they will pay for things like prescription medicines every month, instead of having costs fluctuate.¹⁰

Let’s fix what’s broken and lower costs for patients.

The biopharmaceutical industry is prepared to be part of the solution to deliver a stronger, more resilient, affordable and equitable health care system for all. Learn more about our solutions here.

³. May 2021 Morning Consult/PhRMA Tracking Poll.
⁷. IQVIA/PhRMA. Faced with High Cost Sharing for Brand Medicines, Commercially Insured Patients with Chronic Conditions Increasingly Use Manufacturer Cost-Sharing Assistance Data Analysis. 29 Jan 2021.