West Virginia University Health System
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As the academic medical center of the land-grant university of the State of West Virginia, we at the WVU Health System (WVUHS) are charged with ensuring all West Virginians and those we serve have access to the high-quality healthcare they need and deserve right here in the Mountain State. Nobody should have to travel far from home to receive medical care.

The only way to do that in a state like West Virginia – the only state completely located within the Appalachian region and one of the most impoverished in the country – is through programs like the 340B Discount Drug Program. The WVUHS is a significant stakeholder in the 340B Program that wholeheartedly supports ensuring its integrity and stability and continuing to enable eligible healthcare providers to stretch federal resources to better provide healthcare for the patients they serve.

The pharmaceutical industry charges U.S. patients, employers, and health insurance companies prices exponentially higher than they charge those in other countries.

Take for example GLP-1 agonist drugs, which have exploded in popularity in recent years. In West Virginia, where the rates of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease are among the top in the nation, these drugs could be a real game changer and create a positive impact on our state's residents for years to come.

However, according to a **September 2024 report** from the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, a one-month supply of Ozempic® is $969 in the U.S., $155 in Canada, and $59 in Germany. The same trend applies to a one-month supply of Wegovy®, which costs $1,349 in the U.S., $140 in Germany, and $92 in the United Kingdom. No matter which way you look at it, that just isn't fair to our patients.

We hope this site will show you just how important 340B is to our patients, our state, and our region. Without it, services could be reduced, and hospitals could be forced to close. **Drug companies can afford to fund 340B, but our patients can't afford to lose it.**

Albert L. Wright, Jr.
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