

A FEDERAL PROGRAM TO HELP MORE PATIENTS GET THE CARE AND SERVICES THEY NEED

What Patients and Caregivers Should Know About 340B

WHAT IS 340B?

340B is a federal program that was created to help hospitals provide expanded care and services to more patients.

HOW DOES THE 340B PROGRAM WORK?

Hospitals that participate in the 340B program get to purchase certain drugs at a large discount which they can later sell for a higher price. The money 340B hospitals earn from the sale of the discounted drugs is supposed to be used by the hospital to provide better care and services to more people.

Only hospitals that meet certain criteria can participate in the 340B program. These hospitals are called “340B hospitals.”

IS 340B HELPING PATIENTS AS INTENDED?

Unfortunately, not all 340B hospitals use the money they earn from the sale of the discounted drugs to help patients. Instead, some 340B hospitals keep the money to increase hospital profits, leaving the people the program is meant to support feeling underserved, overcharged and overwhelmed.

“I wouldn’t even pick up the phone if it’s a number that I didn’t recognize because it was just like collection agencies calling and they don’t care.”

“**[My prescription drug cost] was more than I expected, so it came out of my food budget.**”

“Everything was like, ‘You just have to figure it out...be prepared to pay!’
If I could pay for this one visit, some thousands of dollars out of pocket, why on earth would I have Medicaid? It was just so unempathetic and disregarding.”





A 2026 study¹ by CancerCare and Pioneer Institute found many 340B hospitals are helping less people get care and services than hospitals not participating in the program. CancerCare and other organizations are asking for the program to be fixed to make sure 340B hospitals use the money they earn to help patients.

QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ALWAYS ASK WHEN GETTING CARE AT A HOSPITAL

- 1. Is this a 340B hospital?** If yes, tell the hospital representative that you know about the 340B program and its purpose to expand care and services to patients.
- 2. What is the contact information** for the hospital's financial assistance and charity care department?
- 3. What does the hospital directly offer patients** for charity care, reduced-cost care or financial assistance?
- 4. How do I apply** for one or more of the hospital's charity or assistance programs?
- 5. When should I expect a response** from the hospital about my application?

*If you don't hear back from the hospital in the time-period you were given, contact the hospital's financial assistance and charity care department again to find out the status of your application.



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1. Popovian, Robert, Anne M. Sydor, Kim Czubaruk, Michael Walker, and William Smith. "Financial Outcomes and Community Benefit in the 340B Program: Comparing 340B and Non-340B Hospitals." medRxiv, February 17, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.64898/2026.02.12.26346191>.