

Would you ever pay
\$20 for a Starbucks
Coffee?

Troy Trygstad, PharmD MBA PhD

Disclaimer(s)

- I practice community pharmacy on nights and weekends
 - *I'm pro pharmacist and primary care*
- I lead a nationwide clinically integrated network of 3,300 pharmacies
 - *4th largest "chain" by single signature in the United States*
- I'm also a pharmaceutical health policy/health services researcher by training
 - *View the world through the lens of economics*

Agenda

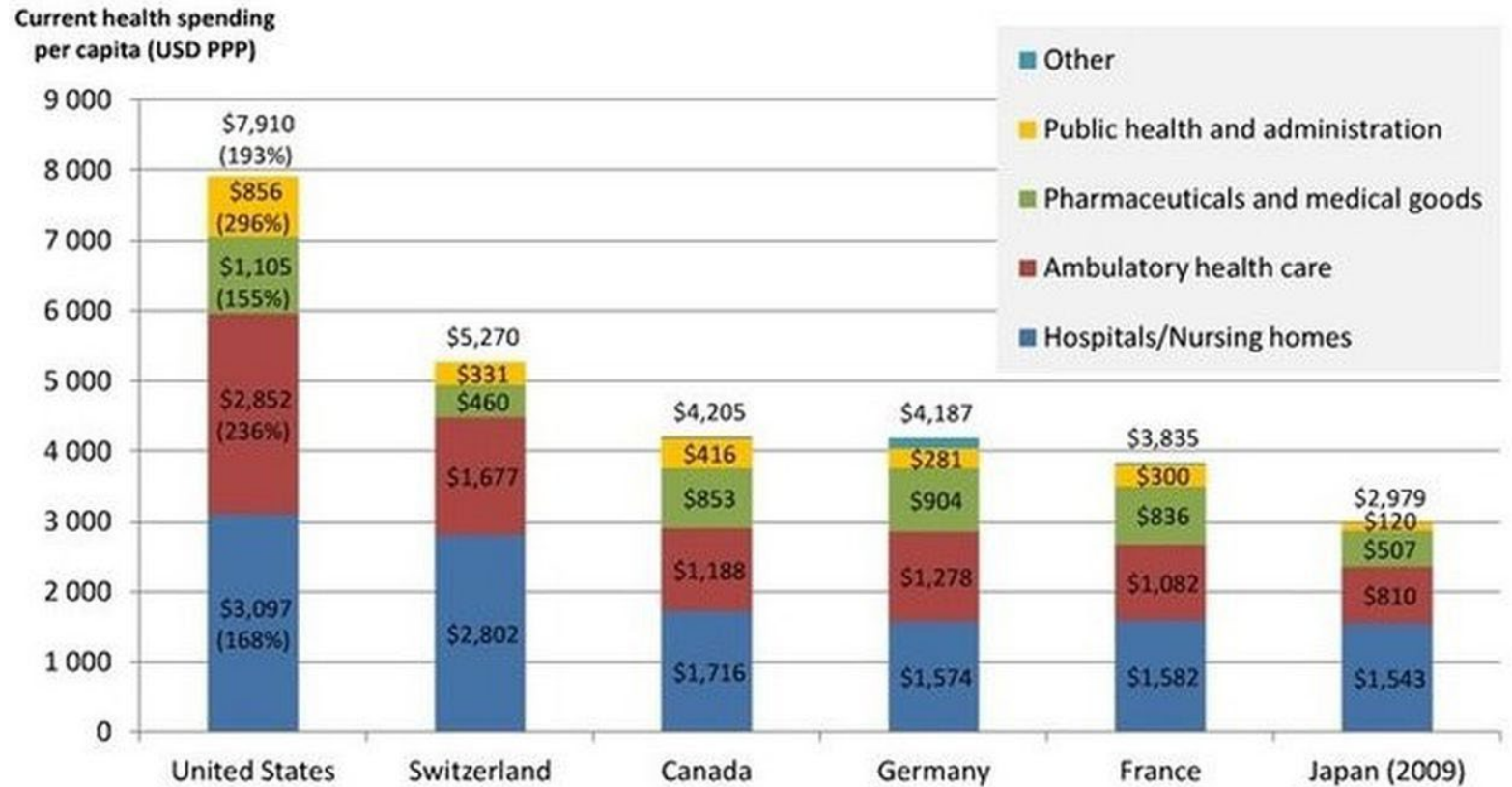
- Where does the money go?
- Drugs are expensive (sometimes).
- Pharmacy is not expensive.
- The disconnect.
- The \$20 Starbucks Coffee
- “Rents”.
- Benchmark pricing.
- Value Based Contracting.
- Pharmacy Quality Networks.
- Results.

US health spending is much greater for all categories of care, particularly for ambulatory care and administration cost

2010 (or latest year available)

Where does the money go?

(Hint: it's worse with non-Rx categories)

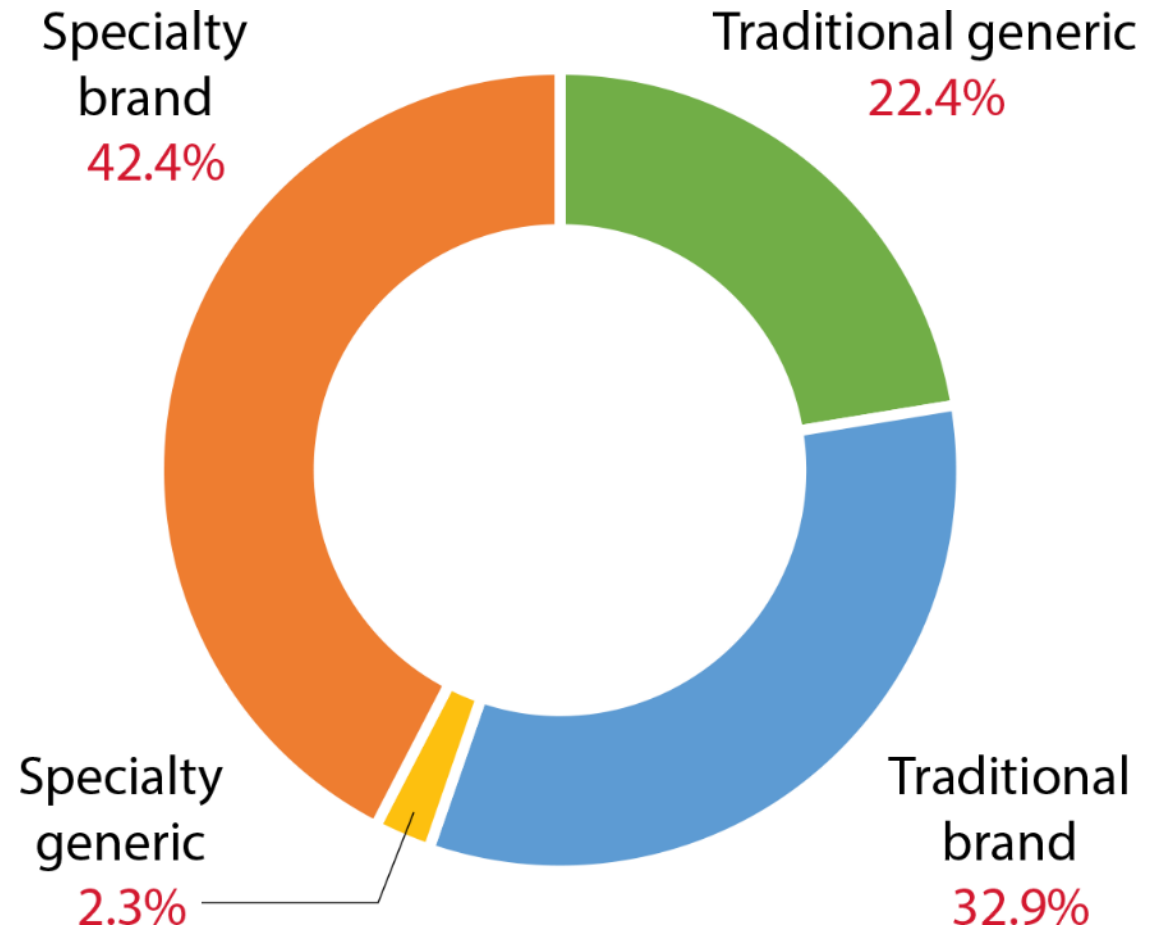


Note: Health spending excludes investments. The percentages in the US bar indicate how much more the US spends per category compared with the average of the five other OECD countries.
Source: OECD Health Data 2012.

Where does the money go?

(Hint: Pareto would blush)

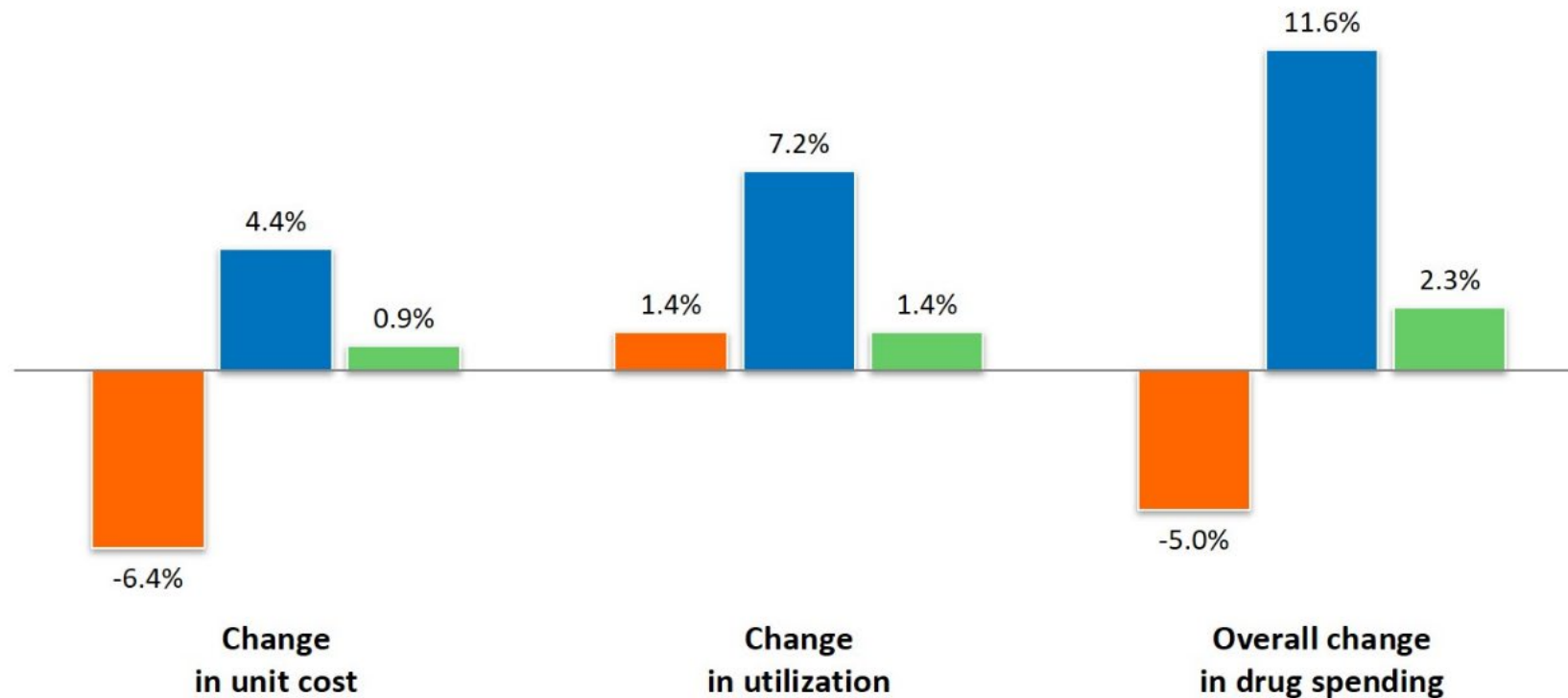
- Source: Express Scripts, "2018 Drug Trend Report," February 2019



<https://www.managedcaremag.com/archives/2019/9/specialty-drug-spend-soars-can-formulary-management-bring-it-down-earth>

Express Scripts, Components of Change in Net Drug Spending, Traditional vs. Specialty, 2019

Traditional drugs Specialty drugs Overall



Drugs are expensive.

(Some of them, but not many)

Source: Drug Channels Institute analysis of Express Scripts drug trend report. Figures are for Express Scripts' commercial clients and include the effect of rebates.

Published on *Drug Channels* (www.DrugChannels.net) on February 25, 2020.

\$31,200,000,000
(Community Pharmacy Gross Margin)

0.86%

\$156,200,000,000
(Community Pharmacy Gross)

4.3%

\$242,900,000,000
(Retail Gross)

6.7%

\$100,000,000?
(MTM Spend?)
• 0.003%

Pharmacies
are **NOT**
expensive.

\$347,000,000,000*
(Post-Rebated Gross)

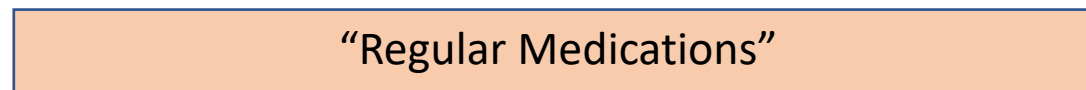
9.6%

\$3,600,000,000,000
(National Health Care Spend)

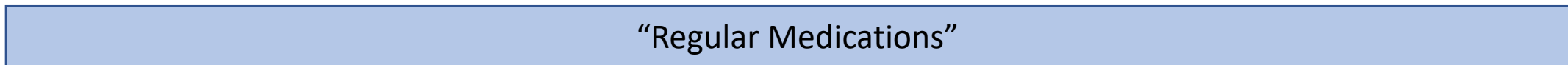
The disconnect(s).

(Small number of fills, big % of cost)

Spend



Rx Fills



PBM Business Models

(business model migration over time)

Administration Phase (70s, early 80s)

– profits by administrative efficiencies

Generic Conversion Phase (late 80s, 90s)

– profits by brand to generic conversions

Rebates Phase (early, 00s, 10s)

– profits by drug rebates, some b2g

Spread Phase (late 00s, 10s)

– profits by drug rebates, **spread pricing**

Vertical Integration Phase (late 00s, 20s)

– profits by channeling, profit-shifting

Ever pay \$20 for a Starbucks Coffee?

(If you bought it from a PBM you might)

EXTRAS					
ADD FLAVOR	.50				
~REGULAR OR SUGAR FREE~					
ADD ESPRESSO SHOT	.80				
ADD SOY	.60				
BREWED COFFEE		TALL	GRANDE	VENTI	
REGULAR OR DECAF		1.85	2.10	2.45	
ESPRESSO					
CAFFE LATTE	3.15	3.75	4.15		
CAFFE MOCHA	3.65	4.25	4.65		
CAPPUCCINO	3.15	3.75	4.15		
CARAMEL MACCHIATO	3.75	4.45	4.75		
VANILLA LATTE	3.65	4.25	4.65		
WHITE CHOCOLATE MOCHA	3.75	4.45	4.75		
CAFE AMERICANO	2.25	2.75	3.25		
		SOLO	DOPPIO		
ESPRESSO	1.75	1.95			
ESPRESSO CON PANNA	1.85	2.05			
ESPRESSO MACCHIATO	1.85	2.05			
HOT TEA		TALL	GRANDE	VENTI	
TAZO CLASSIC CHAI TEA LATTE		2.75	3.25	3.45	
TAZO CHOCOLATE CHAI TEA LATTE		3.25	3.75	3.95	
TAZO VANILLA CHAI TEA LATTE		2.75	3.25	3.45	
TAZO HOT TEA		2.25	2.45	2.65	
<small>EARL GRAY • AWAKE • ZEN • CALM • REFRESH • WILD SWEET ORANGE • DECAF LOTUS DECAF TAZO CHAI • GREEN TEA • PASSION • CHAI • GREEN GINGER</small>					
ICED COFFEE & TAZO ICED TEA				GRANDE	VENTI
ICED CAFFE				4.65	4.95
ICED CAFFE AMERICANO				2.65	3.15
ICED CARAMEL MACCHIATO				4.65	4.95
ICED FLAVOR LATTE				4.45	4.95
ICED COFFEE ~WITH OR WITHOUT MILK~				2.65	2.95
TAZO ICED TEA				2.45	2.95
TAZO ICED TEA LEMONADE				3.25	3.75
• BLACK • GREEN • TROPIC • PASSION •					
TAZO ICED CLASSIC CHAI TEA LATTE				3.95	4.25
TAZO ICED CHOCOLATE CHAI TEA LATTE				3.95	4.25
TAZO ICED VANILLA CARAMEL CHAI TEA LATTE				3.95	4.25
FRAPPUCCINO BLENDED BEVERAGE ~COFFEE~					
COFFEE				3.95	4.45
CARAMEL				4.65	4.95
MOCHA				4.65	4.95
WHITE CHOCOLATE MOCHA				4.65	4.95
JAVA CHIP				4.65	4.95
FRAPPUCCINO BLENDED BEVERAGE ~CREME~					
VANILLA BEAN				3.95	4.45
STRAWBERRIES & CREME				4.65	4.95
MOCHA				4.65	4.95
DOUBLE CHOCOLATY CHIP				4.65	4.95
OTHER FAVORITES		TALL	GRANDE	VENTI	
HOT CHOCOLATE		2.75	3.25	3.45	
WHITE HOT CHOCOLATE		3.25	3.75	3.95	
STEAMER		2.75	3.25	3.45	



Ever pay \$20 for a Starbucks Coffee?

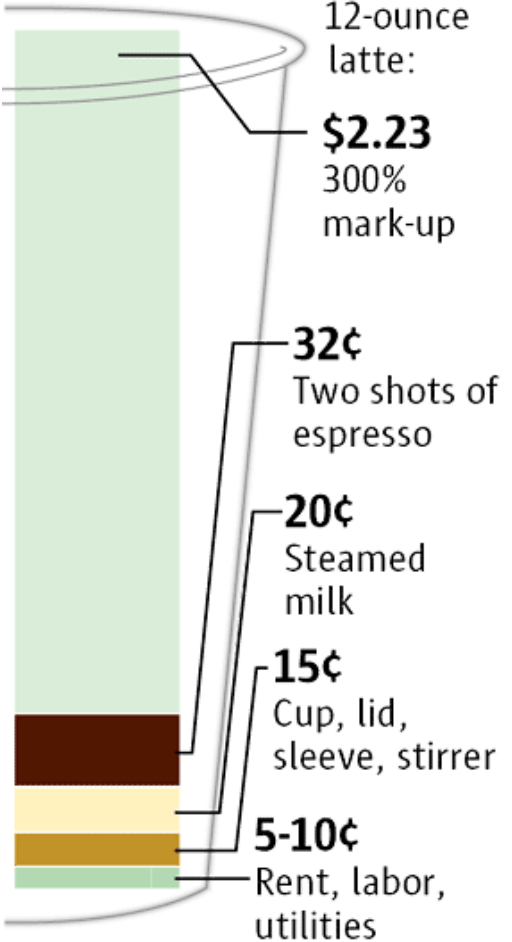
(Coffee is very cheap to procure and produce)

Cheap 16 oz Coffee Cost		
Coffee grounds	\$	0.08
Filter	\$	0.01
Electricity	\$	0.01
Water	\$	0.00
Coffee maker	\$	0.01
Cost for 16 oz:	\$	0.11
		<i>Dr. Penny Pincher</i>

Ever pay \$20 for a Starbucks Coffee?
(If you bought it from a PBM you might)

Latte price breakdown

Matt Milletto of the American Barista & Coffee School breaks down the \$3 cost of a 12-ounce latte:

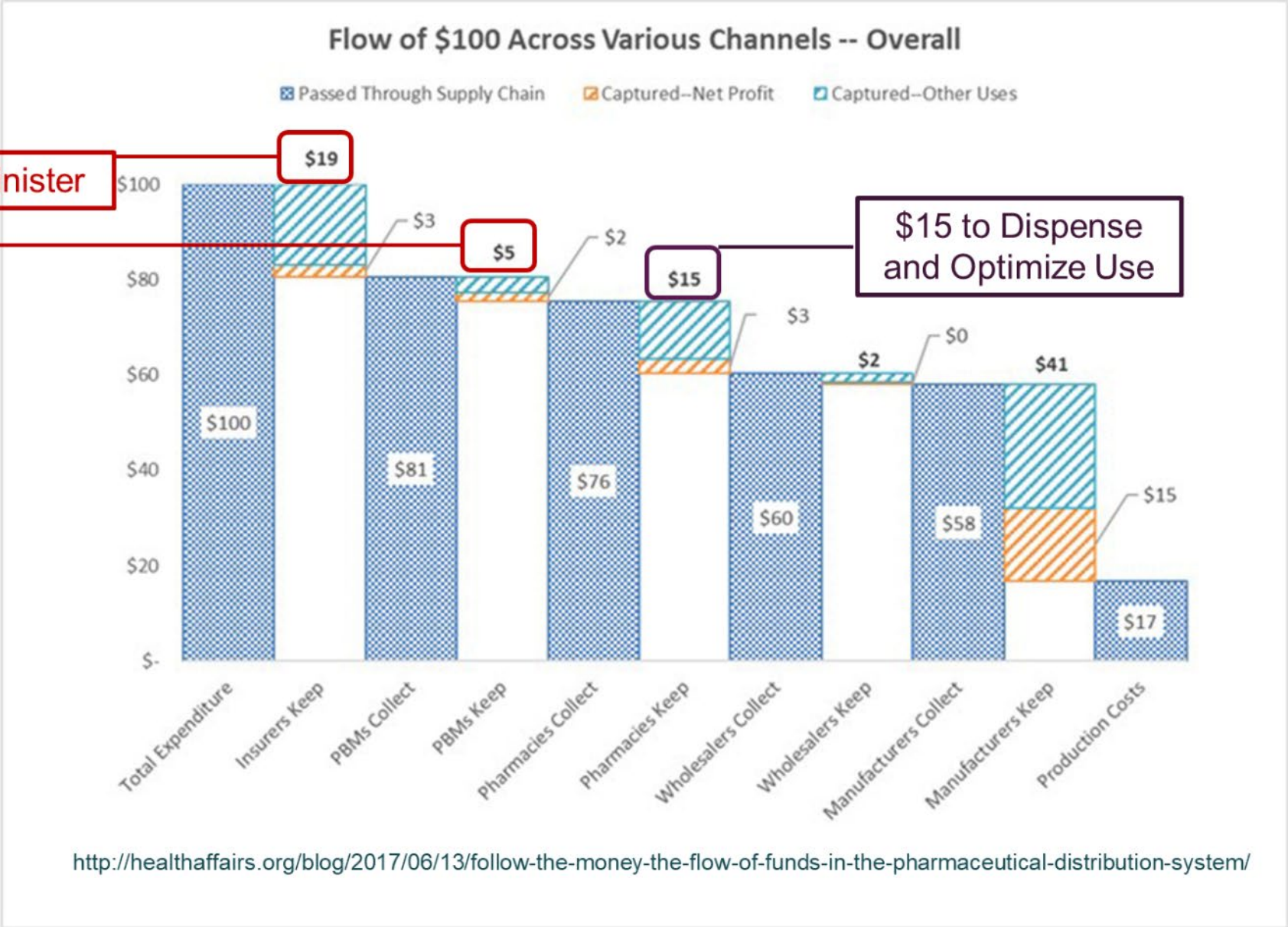


A. RAYMOND/THE SEATTLE TIMES

+ **\$2-\$17+**
To Administer

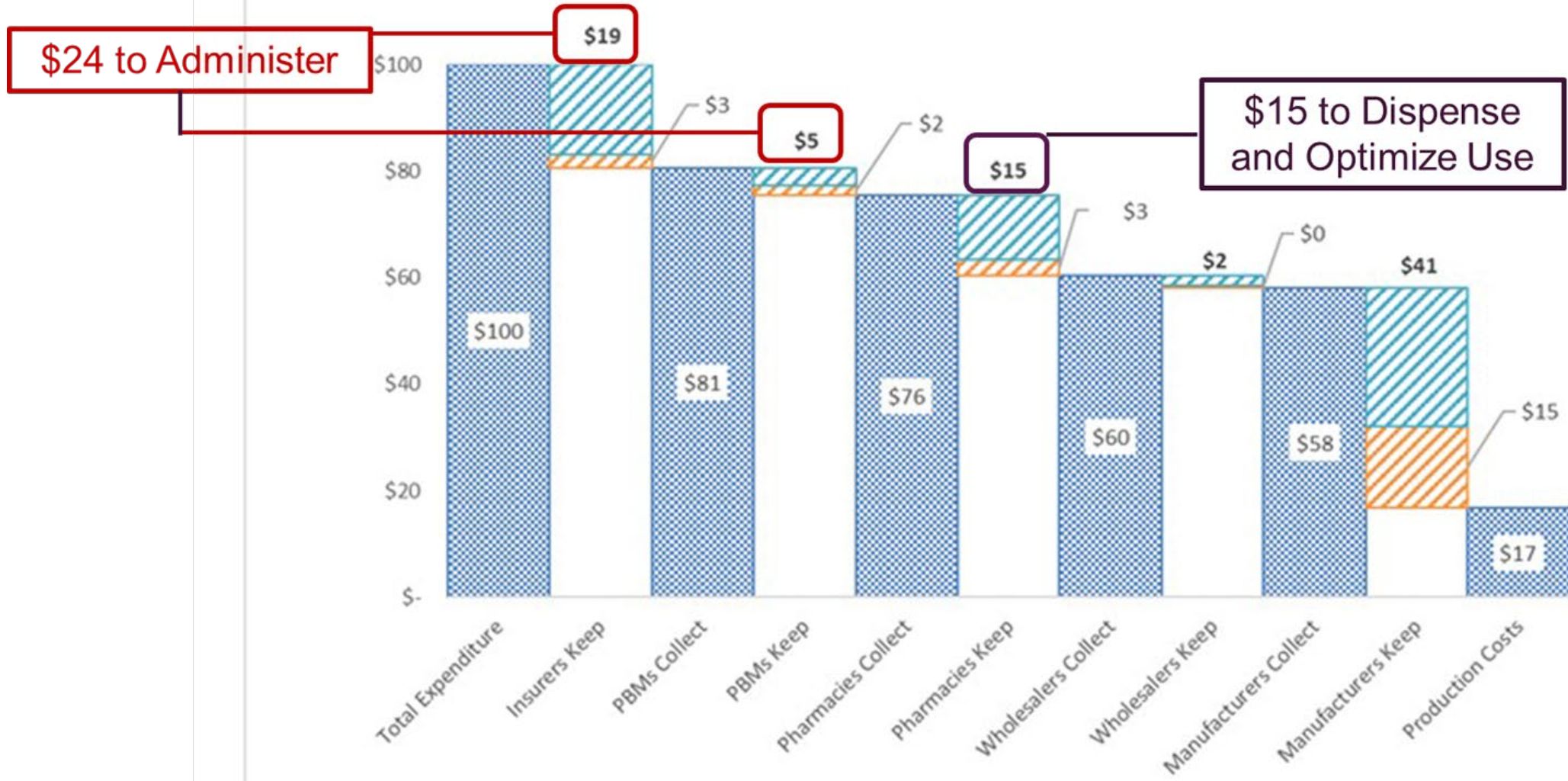
Rents.

(Economist's view)

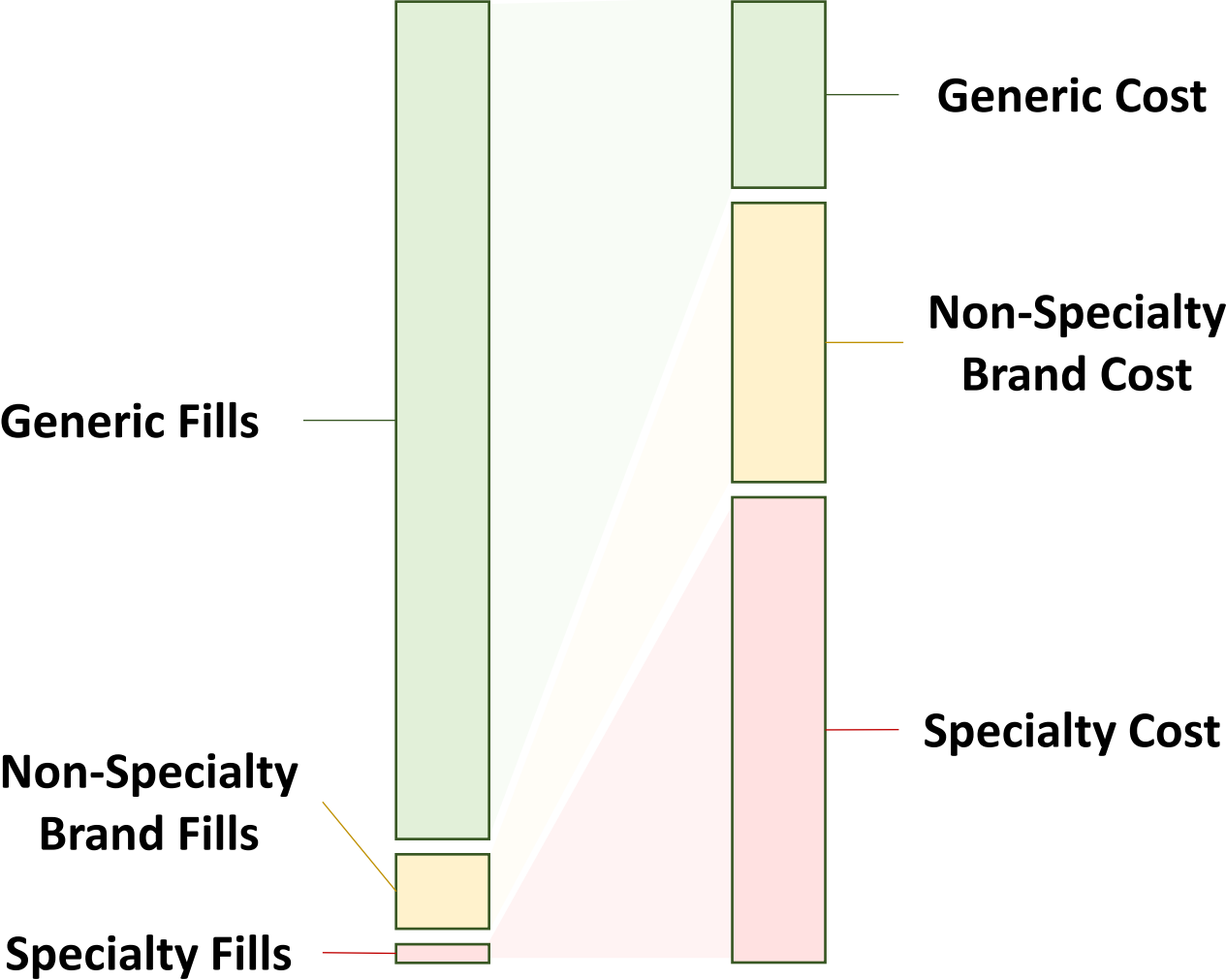


Flow of \$100 Across Various Channels -- Overall

■ Passed Through Supply Chain
 ■ Captured--Net Profit
 ■ Captured--Other Uses



**10% of Fills are
80% of the Cost**
*(This imbalance has
changed the PBM
industry)*

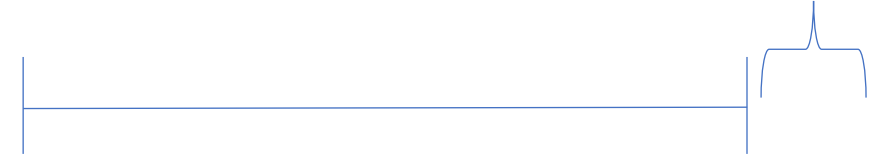


Drawn to Scale for 2021

From Transparency to Opacity

("Rents" require market confuscation)

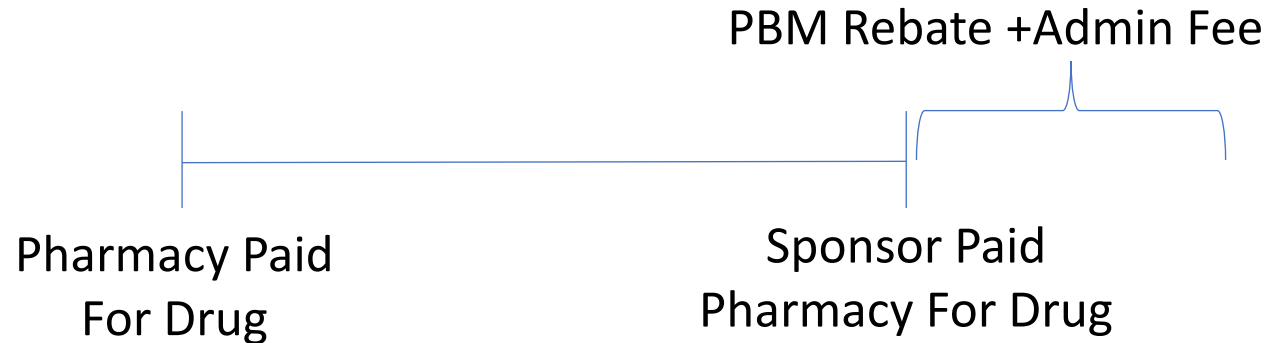
Administration Phase (70s, early 80s)



Generic Conversion Phase (late 80s, 90s)



Rebates Phase (early, 00s, 10s)



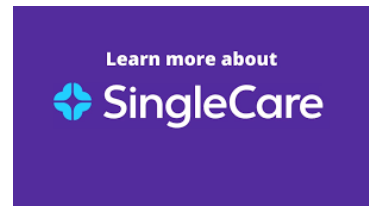
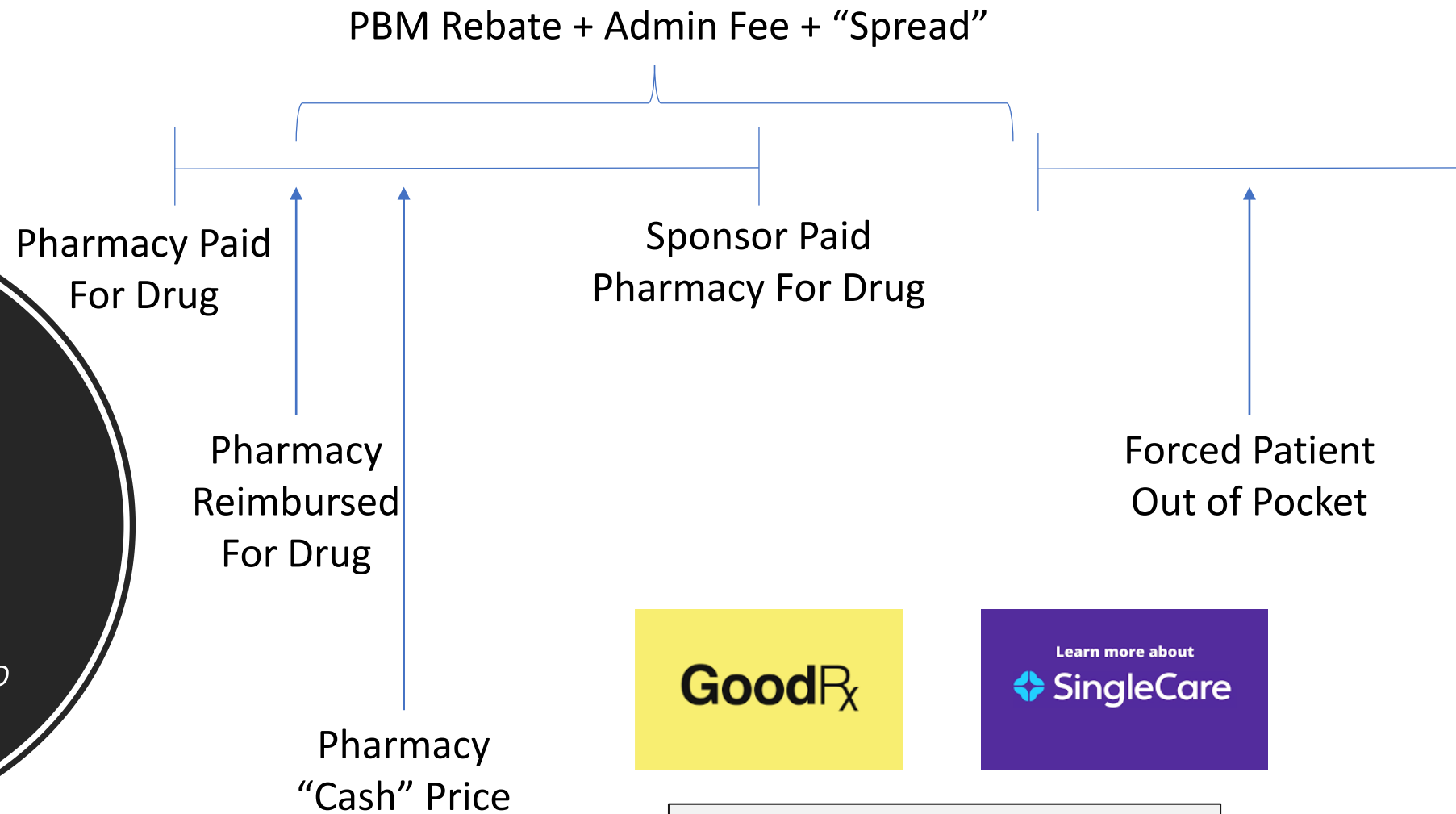
Spread Phase (late 00s, 10s)



Vertical Integration Phase (late 00s, 20s)



The rise of discount cards.
(How is it that insured individuals elect NOT to use their insurance?)



...and many others...
including now ***In-House***
PBM/Insurer Cards!

Benchmark Pricing (NADAC)

MILLIMAN WHITE PAPER

NADAC-plus: An emerging paradigm in pharmacy pricing?

Kevin Pierce, ASA, MAAA
Andrea Sheldon, FSA, MAAA



Due to drug price transparency concerns, *cost-plus* contracting is receiving greater attention. This paper discusses national average drug acquisition costs (NADAC) as a basis for *cost-plus* pricing.

With increased consumer and regulatory scrutiny on drug prices, stakeholders in the pharmacy supply chain are exploring drug pricing alternatives. The *cost-plus* pricing method establishes drug prices based on acquisition costs plus an explicit spread or fee. *NADAC-plus* pricing is a form of *cost-plus* pricing that relies on NADAC as a reference. This paper introduces NADAC and describes the opportunities and limitations of using NADAC as a basis for pharmacy pricing.

What is NADAC?

NADAC estimates the national average drug invoice price paid by independent and retail chain pharmacies. NADAC excludes specialty and mail order pharmacies, and does not reflect

How does NADAC compare to AWP?

In the pharmacy supply chain, manufacturers set list prices, which are then discounted to various stakeholders. Wholesale Price (WP) or Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC) is the price paid by independent and retail chain pharmacies. Average Wholesale Price (AWP) is the average of the list prices of all pharmacies. NADAC is the national average drug invoice price paid by independent and retail chain pharmacies. NADAC excludes specialty and mail order pharmacies, and does not reflect volume discounts, off-invoice discounts, or off-invoice discounts.

How does NADAC compare to AWP?

In traditional pharmacy contracting, drug manufacturers set list prices, which are then discounted to various stakeholders. Wholesale Price (WP) or Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC) is the price paid by independent and retail chain pharmacies. Average Wholesale Price (AWP) is the average of the list prices of all pharmacies. NADAC is the national average drug invoice price paid by independent and retail chain pharmacies. NADAC excludes specialty and mail order pharmacies, and does not reflect volume discounts, off-invoice discounts, or off-invoice discounts.

What is NADAC?

NADAC estimates the national average drug invoice price paid by independent and retail chain pharmacies. NADAC excludes specialty and mail order pharmacies, and does not reflect volume discounts, off-invoice discounts, or off-invoice discounts.

How does NADAC compare to AWP?

In traditional pharmacy contracting, drug manufacturers set list prices, which are then discounted to various stakeholders. Wholesale Price (WP) or Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC) is the price paid by independent and retail chain pharmacies. Average Wholesale Price (AWP) is the average of the list prices of all pharmacies. NADAC is the national average drug invoice price paid by independent and retail chain pharmacies. NADAC excludes specialty and mail order pharmacies, and does not reflect volume discounts, off-invoice discounts, or off-invoice discounts.

Drug	AWP	NADAC	AWP - NADAC
Drug A	100%	80%	20%
Drug B	100%	90%	10%
Drug C	100%	70%	30%
Drug D	100%	85%	15%

Recommended Read

Benchmark pricing. (NADAC)

Average Wholesale Price
 (“Aint’ What’s Paid”)

FIGURE 1: COMMON NADAC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is NADAC?	National average drug acquisition cost for retail pharmacies.
Who contributes to NADAC?	Independent and retail chain pharmacies voluntarily contribute.
What is included / excluded?	Drug invoice prices are included. Rebates, price concessions, and off-invoice discounts are excluded. Specialty and mail order pharmacies are excluded.
How often is it published?	Random surveys are conducted monthly. NADAC datasets are updated weekly.
How is NADAC determined?	Average of voluntarily reported data by pharmacies. 450–600 pharmacies typically contribute per month.

utilization by drug type and business line. Please refer to the Methodology section for more information on our approach for developing the values in Figure 2.

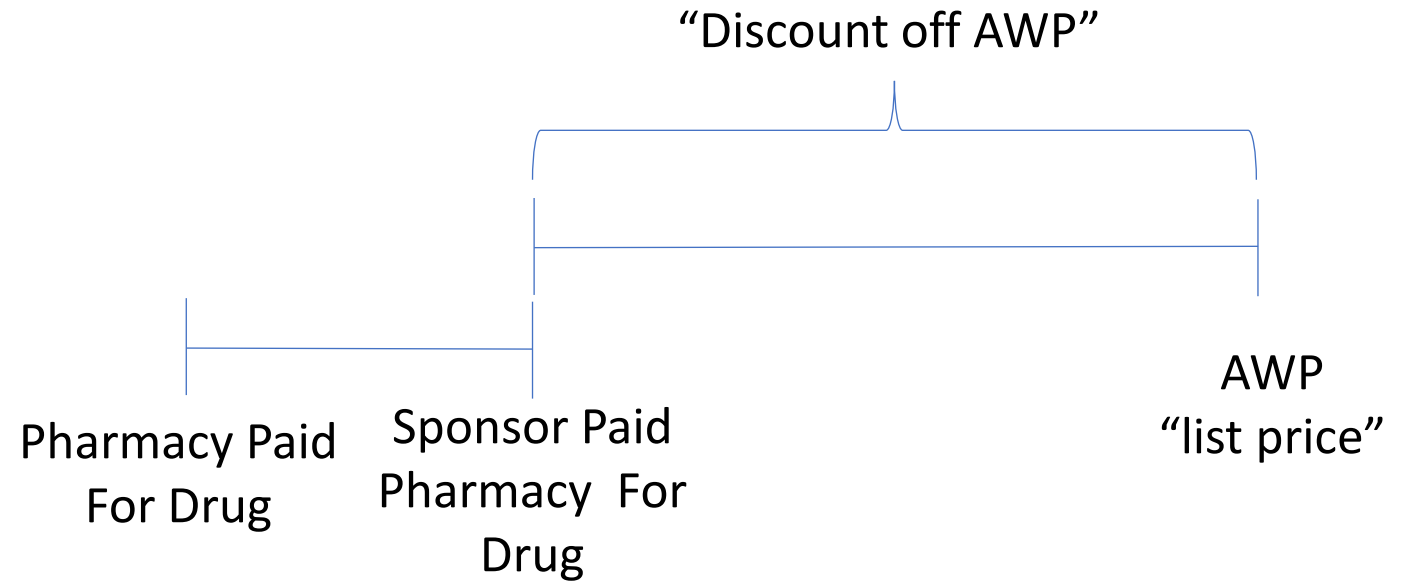
FIGURE 2: NADAC EQUIVALENT DISCOUNTS OFF AWP (USING OCTOBER 2018 NADAC AND OCTOBER 2018 AWP)

DRUG TYPE	MEDICARE	COMMERCIAL	MEDICAID
Generic	92.6%	90.3%	90.2%
Brand	20.1%	20.0%	20.0%
Specialty	24.8%	24.2%	21.8%

¹ “CMS Retail Price Survey, NADAC Overview and Help Desk Operations.” Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. August 2017. Retrieved on October 30, 2018, from <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/prescription-drugs/downloads/retail-price-survey/nadac-overview-operations.pdf>.

² “National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC) Questions and Responses.” Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Retrieved on October 30, 2018, from <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/bv-topics/prescription-drugs/ful-nadac-downloads/nadacoa.pdf>.

AWP
(or other benchmark)
Model
vs.
NADAC Model



Typical Pharmacy PBM Contract: "AWP – 82% + \$1.00 Dispensing Fee"

NADAC PBM Contract: "NADAC + \$8.50 Dispensing Fee"

The Difference?: A better benchmark of what the pharmacy paid for the drug and nearly all of payment is for the service.

Otherwise – you have no idea whatsoever what you are actually paying for the Coffee!

Imagine if Visa or Mastercard charged you a \$17 transaction fee on a cup of coffee

You can check
what you pay
against NADAC

*(How much are you
paying for the
transaction?)*

Your Self-Funded
Pharmacy Claims

Publicly Available
Government File

.....
comparison
.....

https://healthdata.gov/harvest_source/datamedicaidgov

Value based contracting.

(Why did this trend miss Pharmacy Sector?)

Good Haircut



Bad Haircut



....Same Reimbursement

(not related at all to medical outcomes...)

From a Retail Spread Business to... ...A Services-Based Business

Spend

“Specialty Medications”

“Regular Medications”

Rx Fills

← “Specialty Medications”

“Regular Medications”

Touches

“Regular Medications” – Mail Order

“Regular Medications” - Community Based

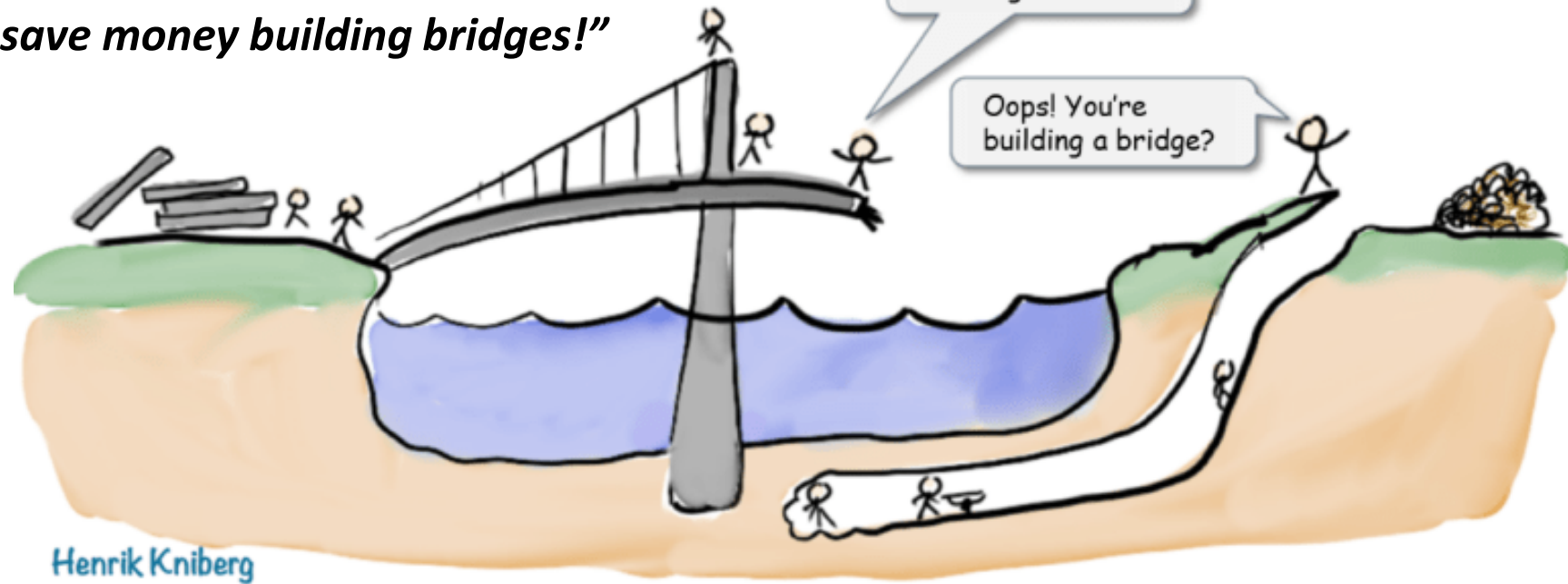
More than 1 Billion Face-to-Face Opportunities Wasted Annually

How did
pharmacy get
here?

(Lack of
Alignment...)

Misalignment

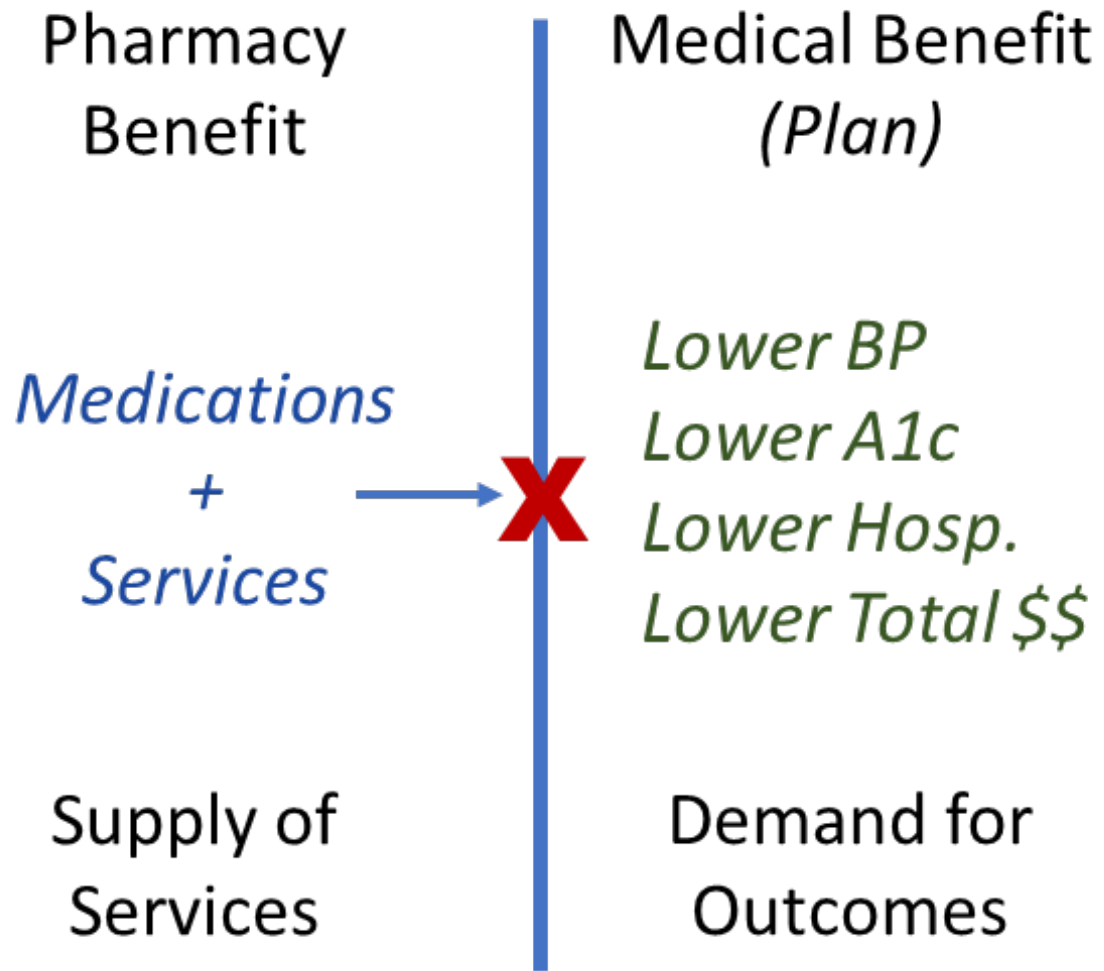
"I save money building bridges!"



"I get paid to build tunnels!"

Why can't pharmacy play?

(Left out of Outcomes-based VBP conversation...)



What does a Services-Based VBP program targeting clinical outcomes look like for pharmacies?

- **Example Diabetes Program (Targeted Pts.)**

- Intervention
 - *Patient goals*
 - *Medication Reconciliation*
 - *Problems – medical problems, drug therapy problems, and health concerns*
 - *Plan of Care*
 - *Report Lab results: A1c, fasting blood glucose, and blood pressure*
- Data/Reporting
 - *Electronic Care Plan*

- **Payment**

- \$60 & 80 PMPM
 - *25% Withheld*
 - *80% Threshold*
 - *Engaged (Care Plan)*
 - *A1c Reported*
 - *25% Threshold*
 - *A1c <9.0*
 - *50% Threshold*
 - *A1c <9.0*

What does a Services-Based VBP program targeting clinical outcomes look like for pharmacies?

- **Example Asthma Program**

- Intervention
 - *Whatever works*
- Data/Reporting
 - *None from Pharmacy*
 - *Claims analysis of ED visits*

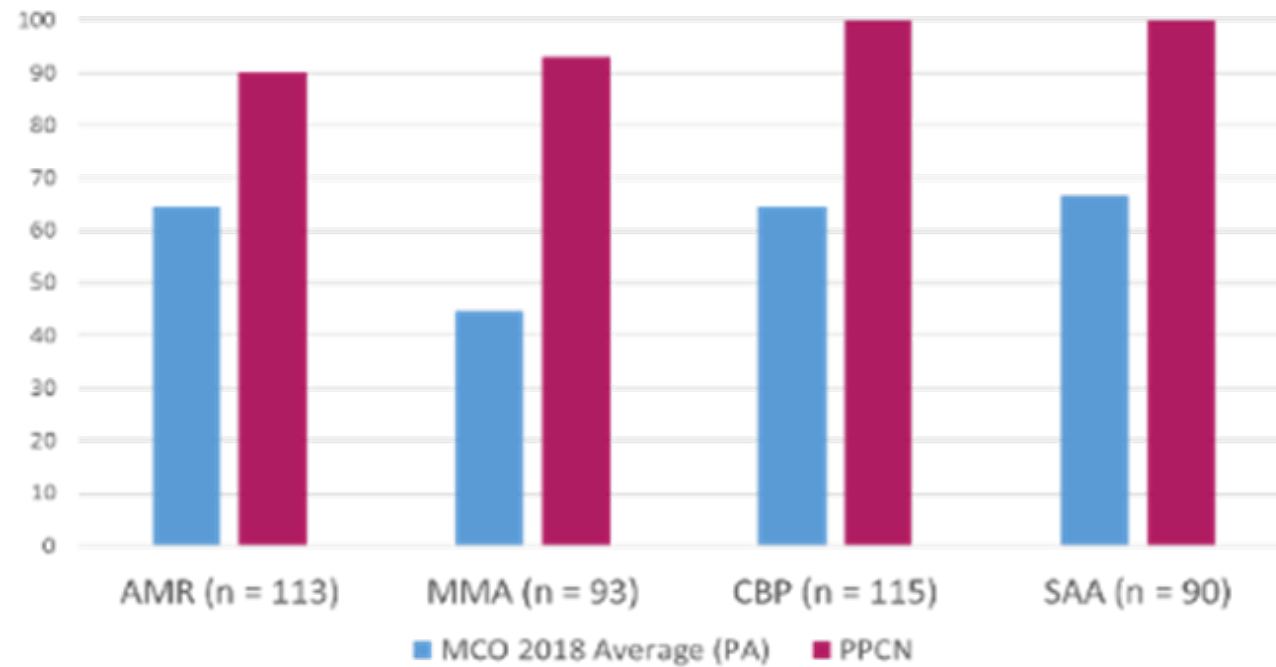
- **Payment**

- \$10 PMPM
- Shared Savings
Upside
 - *65% of Savings to Pharmacy Network*

Results.

PPCN Quality Data: HEDIS Performance

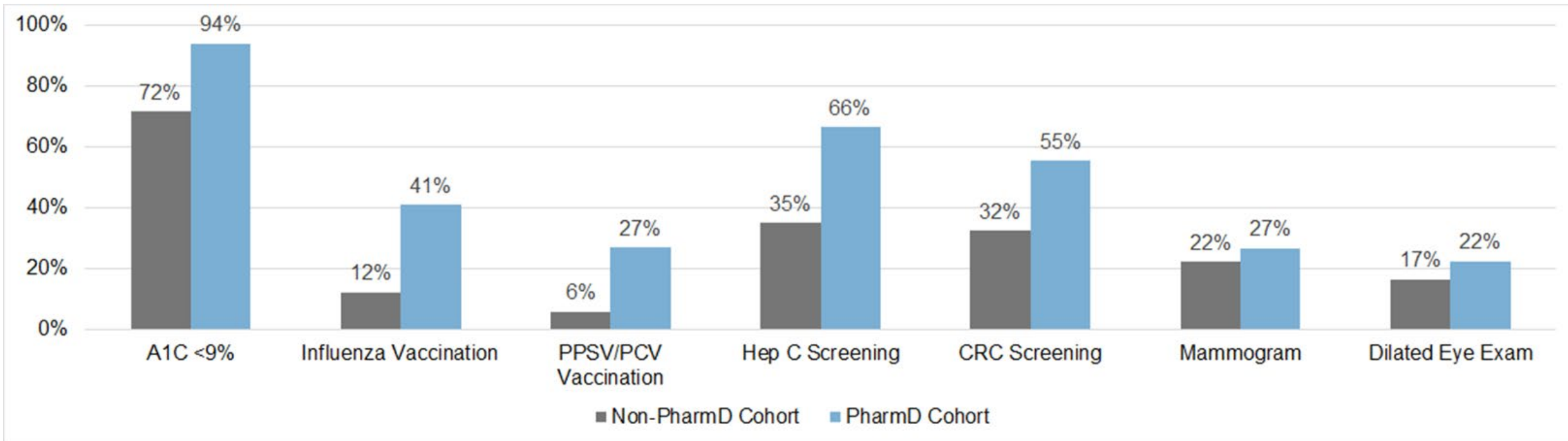
January 1- July 31, 2019



- **HEDIS: Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set**

Results.

Accountable Pharmacy Networks are not a Unicorn and Many Plans are Moving Toward Value-Based Pharmacy Contracting



- Sinclair J, Bentley OS, Abubakar A, Rhodes LA, Marciniak MW, Impact of Pharmacists in Improving Quality Measures that Affect Physician Payment, Journal of the American Pharmacists Association (2019), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japh.2019.03.013>.

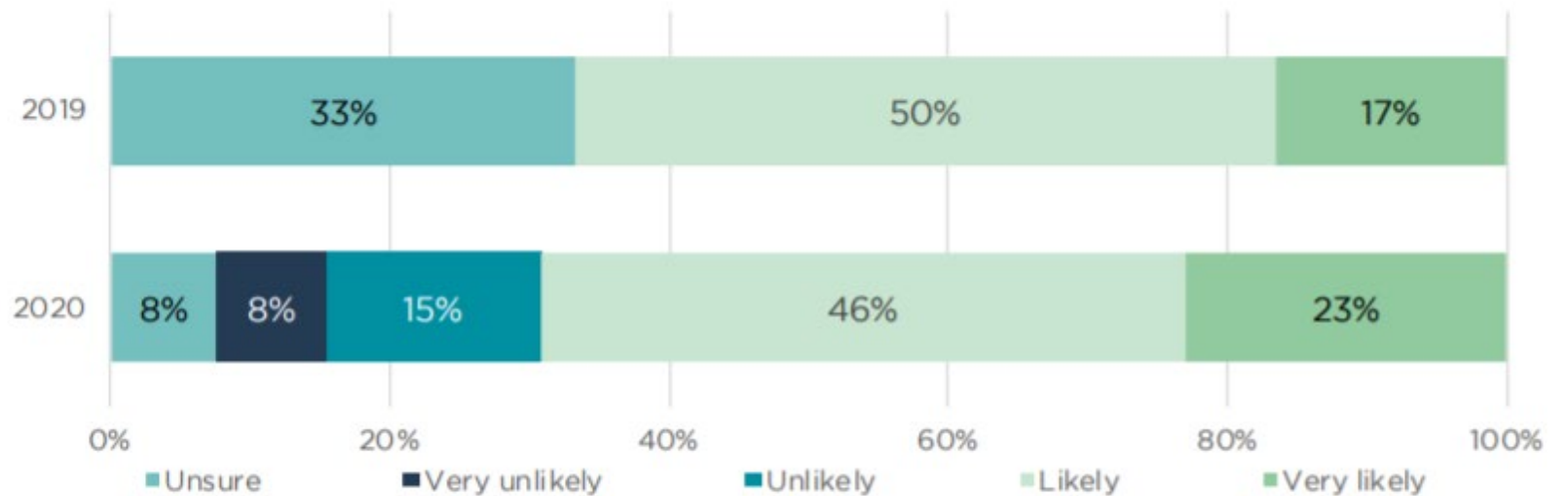
The Future.

Accountable Pharmacy Networks are not a Unicorn and Many Plans are Moving Toward Value-Based Pharmacy Contracting



<https://www.pharmacyquality.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PQStrendreportinPharmacyQuality2020.pdf>

IF COMMUNITY PHARMACIES COULD SUBMIT AGREED UPON EVIDENCE OF BIOMETRIC TEST RESULTS OR PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT FINDINGS FOR A QUALITY MEASURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DATA SOURCE MANDATES (E.G., POINT OF CARE TESTING FOR HEMOGLOBIN A1C AND SUBMIT TESTING RESULTS; BLOOD PRESSURE MEASUREMENT FOR BLOOD PRESSURE CONTROL), HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY PHARMACIES TO PERFORM THE SERVICE?



NOTE: 2019 N = 12; 2020 N = 13

Questions?