

IPA Member Update  
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Independent Pharmacy Alliance, established 1988, is a trade group and retail pharmacy buying cooperative representing over 3,700+ independent pharmacies.

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## Breaking News: FTC Launches Inquiry Into PBM Prescription Drug Middlemen Industry



The Federal Trade Commission announced that it will launch an inquiry into the prescription drug middleman industry, requiring the six largest PBMs to provide information and records regarding their business practices. The agency's inquiry will scrutinize the impact of vertically integrated PBMs on the access and affordability of prescription drugs. **As part of this inquiry, the FTC will send compulsory orders to CVS Caremark; Express Scripts, Inc.; OptumRx, Inc.;**

**Humana Inc.; Prime Therapeutics LLC; and MedImpact Healthcare Systems, Inc. [Click this link to read press release.](#)**

## Podcast: David Balto Discusses U.S. Senate Hearing on PBMs and the Federal Trade Commission Investigation



We had a great conversation about Pharmacy Benefits Managers with David Balto. David is an attorney who has practiced antitrust law for over 30 years in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission and in private practice. David Balto worked for the FTC and recently participated in a U.S. Senate panel hearing on PBMs. He tells us what happened and gives an insiders look into the FTC's PBM investigation. **Click these links to listen on your favorite apps...**

**[iTunes](#) - [PodBean](#) - [Spotify](#) - [Amazon Music](#) - [Stitcher](#) - [iHeartRadio](#)**

## **NCPA: Independent Community Pharmacy Advocates Push for PBM Reform Legislation in New Jersey**



Independent pharmacy advocates testified before the New Jersey Assembly Health Committee in support of a package of pro-pharmacy, pro-patient bills. The package of five bills would increase transparency in the drug supply chain and limit costly PBM practices that interfere with patient access to pharmacy services. **Assembly bill 536 would help enforce New Jersey's pharmacy appeals laws.** [To read the NCPA article click this link](#)

## **Independent Pharmacy Alliance & Pharmacy Advocates Testify on PBM Reform**

*New Jersey Assembly Health Committee  
Tuesday, May 24, 2022*



Listen to testimony provided by New Jersey's pharmacy advocates in favor of Assembly Bill 536. The bill would increase transparency in the drug supply chain and limit costly PBM practices that interfere with patient access to pharmacy services. Assembly bill 536 would help enforce New Jersey's pharmacy appeals laws. **To listen, [click his link](#) or scan the QR code with your phone. Pharmacy advocates testimony begins at the 1 hour mark.**

## **New Jersey Spotlight: Assembly Health Committee Approves PBM Reform Bill**



For longer-term change, Governor Murphy's administration favors bills to increase oversight of pharmacy benefit managers (PBM) and require far more data from all stakeholders throughout the drug supply chain. The Assembly Health Committee approved three amended proposals championed by Gov. Phil Murphy, including a call to cap co-pay costs of three life-saving medications, an effort to further regulate pharmacy benefit managers and a measure designed to increase public transparency throughout the drug supply chain. [To read the entire article click this link.](#)

## **NJ Pharmacy Owners - PAC Donations are Needed ASAP - We can only get this done with your support please!**

[Click this Link and Make A Donation to Stop PBM Abuse](#)



“I want to congratulate the New Jersey pharmacy advocates on the latest victories which brings us one step closer to and enforcing our PBM appeals laws. I’m asking you to make your annual contribution to IPA’s PAC to support OUR PBM reform agenda.”

**“JOIN ME in contributing \$365, just one dollar per day, to advance our cause.” Anthony Minniti, R.Ph., IPA PAC President and Pharmacy Owner.**

## **New bill would crack down on PBM spread pricing, increase transparency**



Senators Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) introduced the [Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act of 2022](#) on May 24, which would make it illegal for PBMs to engage in [“spread pricing.”](#)

The [bipartisan legislation](#) would empower the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to increase drug pricing transparency and hold pharmacy benefit managers (PBM) accountable for unfair and deceptive practices that drive up the costs of prescription drugs at the expense of consumers. It also would prohibit arbitrary clawbacks of payments made to pharmacies and require PBMs to report to the FTC how much money they make through spread pricing and pharmacy fees. [To read the entire article click this link.](#)

## **New York Request for Public Comments on the Duty, Accountability and Transparency of Pharmacy Benefit Managers to Health Plans**



The Department of Financial Services is inviting public comments about the duty, accountability and transparency requirements of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (“PBM”) to New York health plans under Public Health Law Section 280-a(2), which requires PBMs to disclose and report certain information to New York health plans, and to hold certain funds in trust for the health plans. [Select this link](#) to view the Request for Public Comments.

Responses should be emailed to [PBM@dfs.ny.gov](mailto:PBM@dfs.ny.gov) by June 17, 2022, with “PBM2022-01” included in the subject line. Failure to include “PBM2022-01” in the subject line may result in your comment not being considered.

## **FDA Issues Guidance on Importation of Certain Prescription Drugs**

The FDA released a [guidance document](#) on requirements for pharmacists and wholesale distributors for the importation of some prescription drugs from Canada. This guidance provides further clarification to [FDA's October 2020 final rule](#), “Importation of Prescription Drugs,” which became effective Nov. 30, 2020. FDA issued the final rule to cut costs for American consumers, while not introducing additional health and safety risks. [To read the FDA update click this link.](#)

## **Independent Pharmacy Alliance**

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