



Prescriptions for a Healthy America

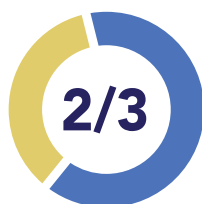
"A Partnership for Advancing Medication Adherence"

MEDICATION ADHERENCE: A \$300 BILLION PROBLEM

SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND LOWER COSTS

WHAT IS MEDICATION ADHERENCE?

Medication adherence occurs when a patient takes their medications as prescribed by their health care provider. This can include taking the prescription according to the specific dosage, time and frequency. A breakdown in any one of these elements has the potential to result in unanticipated side effects and complications. Despite this, studies show that:



TWO-THIRDS
of all patients do not
take their medications
as prescribed.ⁱ



MORE THAN 1 IN 5
new prescriptions go unfilled.ⁱⁱ



ADHERENCE IS LOWEST
among patients with chronic illnesses.ⁱⁱⁱ

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF POOR MEDICATION ADHERENCE?

Poor medication adherence, or non-adherence, limits effective management and control of chronic illnesses. Non-adherence increases the likelihood of preventable disease progression, increased hospitalizations, avoidable doctor and emergency room visits, all of which can significantly increase costs.



At least 125,000 Americans die annually due to poor medication adherence.^{iv}



As adherence declines, emergency room visits increase by 17% and hospital stays rise 10% among patients with diabetes, asthma, or gastric acid disorder.^v



Poor medication adherence results in 33% to 69% of medication-related hospital admissions in the United States, at a cost of roughly \$100 billion per year.^{vi}



NEHI estimates that total potential savings from adherence and related disease management could be \$290 billion annually — 13% of health spending.^{vii}

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

A growing body of evidence suggests that medication adherence programs have the potential to reduce health spending and, in the process, generate significant savings for taxpayers. Policies to promote medication adherence have the potential to improve health and significantly reduce health spending.

The Council for Affordable Health Coverage (CAHC) launched **Prescriptions for a Healthy America: Partnership for Advancing Medication Adherence** (the Partnership) in collaboration with several patient, pharmacy, provider, pharmaceutical, and employer organizations to identify specific legislative and regulatory solutions that can be brought to the attention of Congress and the Administration.

ⁱSurvey conducted for Prescriptions for a Healthy America by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner, May 2013; Available at adhereforhealth.org ⁱⁱFischer MA, Choudhry NK, et al. "Trouble Getting Started: Predictors of Primary Medication Nonadherence." *Am. J. of Med.*, 2011 November; 124(11): 1081.e9 – 1081.e22; See also, Fischer MA, Stedman MR, Li J, et al. "Primary Medication Non-Adherence: Analysis of 195,930 Electronic Prescriptions." *J. Gen. Intern. Med.*, 2010 April; 25(4): 284–290. ⁱⁱⁱSokol MC, McGuigan KA, Verbrugge RR, Epstein RS. "Impact of Medication Adherence on Hospitalization Risk and Healthcare Cost." *Med Care*. Jun 2005 ;43(6):521-30.

WHO WE ARE

Prescriptions for a Healthy America: *A Partnership for Advancing Medication Adherence* was convened to raise awareness of the growing challenges posed by medication non-adherence, and advocate for policy solutions that will help reduce health care costs and improve the lives of patients across the nation through medication adherence interventions.

OUR PRIORITIES



Prescriptions for a
Healthy America

"A Partnership for Advancing Medication Adherence"

A Campaign of the Council for Affordable Health Coverage

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OUR MEMBERS

Our broad based Partnership is balanced across industries and ideological outlook. We came together to pursue this issue because we believe it will greatly improve health care in America.

STEERING COMMITTEE

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Heart Association
- CVS/Caremark
- Easter Seals
- Generic Pharmaceutical Association
- Merck
- National Association of Chain Drug Stores
- National Consumers League
- NEHI
- Omnicell
- PhRMA
- Third Way
- US Chamber of Commerce

GENERAL MEMBERS

- AARDA
- AARP
- Abbvie
- Allergan
- American Academy of Ophthalmology
- American Pharmacists Association
- American Osteopathic Association
- AstraZeneca
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Healthcare Leadership Council
- Healthcare Compliance Packaging Council
- MeadWestVaco
- Mirixa Corporation
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Association of State Pharmacy Associations
- National Council for Behavioral Health
- National Council for Prescription Drug Programs
- National Council on Aging
- National Council on Patient Information and Education
- National Patient Advocate Foundation
- National Pharmaceutical Council
- Novo Nordisk
- Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative
- Pfizer
- Pharmaceutical Care Management Association
- Pharmacy Quality Alliance
- Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
- Sanofi
- Thrifty White