

AACU Supports Payer Transparency

Founded in 1968 by urologists concerned by the government's increasing role in the practice of medicine, the AACU is a professional organization representing the interests of more than 3,700+ member urologists, and urologic societies engaged as advocacy affiliates across the United States. We are dedicated to developing and advancing health policy education as it affects urologic practice in order to preserve and promote the professional autonomy of our members and support the highest quality of care for patients.

AACU is aware of the ongoing policy debates around how to make Medicare Advantage more efficient for beneficiaries. One suggestion is to increase transparency around Medicare payers, especially pharmacy benefit managers, otherwise known as PBMs.

PBMs are middlemen with outsized power and control over all aspects of our current pharmaceutical supply chain system. PBMs originally served as claims processors whose duty was to reduce administrative costs for insurers, validate a patient's eligibility, administer plan benefits, and negotiate costs between pharmacies and health plans. However, with the creation of Medicare Part D, these PBMs went from obscure entities to companies that have used horizontal and vertical integrations to virtually become sheer monopolies.

AACU is here to support the community urologists and believes that tightening existing loopholes around PBMs will definitely help community urologists thrive again. We will be advocating for issues against administrative burdens such as step therapy and prior authorization, while supporting legislation aimed at spread pricing, network exclusion and other major issues found within PBM transparency vehicles.

AACU wants to ensure that urologists can practice at the top of their licenses without having to look over their shoulders. We look forward to working with industry on how to level the regulatory playing field so that our administrative burdens are reduced.