

# Fact Sheet: Drug Affordability Reviews

## **Background:**

Drug Affordability Reviews are government efforts to address the high cost of prescription medications in the United States. These reviews happen primarily through state Prescription Drug Affordability Boards (PDABs) and national drug price negotiations. The goal is to identify medications considered expensive and explore ways to lower costs.

In short, these efforts were created to improve prescription drug affordability, but patients are still fighting to ensure their voices are included.

## **The Drug Affordability Reviews can be harmful to patients.**

People living with autoimmune and autoinflammatory conditions often rely on expensive specialty medications to manage their disease. While affordability review efforts seek to lower costs, many patients worry that current solutions are not fully addressing the real reasons their drugs are unaffordable (such as health plan barriers). Instead, affordability reviews often focus more on health spending data than understanding why patients struggle to access treatment. As a result, they do not automatically lower patient out-of-pocket costs and may lead to adverse impacts like fewer treatment options, non-medical switching, or higher cost-sharing. Patients deserve to be included in these conversations before decisions are made.

## **What can be done?**

Patients and caregivers can share their stories so policymakers better understand the real challenges behind medication affordability and access. Staying informed about Drug Affordability Reviews helps patients advocate for solutions that truly improve access and reduce financial barriers. Connecting with groups like [AiArthritis](#) and the [Patient Inclusion Council \(PIC\)](#) is another way to stay engaged and make sure patient voices are heard. Your experiences matter and can help shape policies that put patients first. We don't represent the patient voice, we are the patient voice!

## **In conclusion**

Drug Affordability Reviews were created to help address high drug costs but many current efforts are not fully centered on patient experiences. Patients continue to face affordability challenges caused by insurance barriers, high out-of-pocket costs, and access restrictions.

Without patient input, policies meant to lower costs may create unintended and adverse consequences for the people who rely on these medications every day. That is why patient and caregiver voices are critical. Patients deserve a seat at the table so affordability solutions improve access, protect treatment options, and truly support the people these policies are intended to help.

## **Hear from our patients!**

Scan the QR code to hear patient stories and learn about our policy priorities in our Knowledge=Empowerment classroom

