

Resolution

Pharmacies to Inform Physicians When Lower Cost Medication Options are on Formulary

Whereas, Physicians often write prescriptions for medications not knowing that the patient's insurance formulary offers a similar medication in the same class at a lower cost; and

Whereas, Many patients can't afford their medication because the copay is too high so they leave the pharmacy without picking up the medication; and

Whereas, Pharmacists are not required to inform the physician of the availability of a lower-cost option when one is available on the formulary; and

Whereas, Medical offices expend a great deal of time and non-reimbursed expense reviewing formularies for patients and communicating back and forth with physicians, pharmacists, and patients; and

Whereas, Healthcare costs could be reduced by solving this problem; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the FMA supports legislation or regulatory action to require that in the event a patient cannot afford the medication prescribed, either because it is not on the formulary or it is priced higher than other medications on the formulary, the pharmacist must communicate to the prescriber a medication option in the same class prescribed with the lowest out-of-pocket cost to the patient.