



YOU CAN AFFECT THE FUTURE OF YOUR MEDICATIONS

HOW TO PREPARE FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH CMS



➔ Simple Explanation of the Real-World Impact

When people hear “Medicare drug price negotiation,” it sounds like a good thing — and lowering costs can be important. But what often gets left out of the conversation is how negotiated prices can affect access, care, and choice for patients.

Here’s what patients need to understand.

Lower prices don’t always mean easier access.

When the government negotiates a drug price, that price doesn’t just apply to Medicare. It can influence how insurance plans, pharmacies, and clinics make decisions.

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That can sometimes lead to:

- More paperwork before you can get your medication
- Longer wait times to start treatment
- Fewer medication options covered by insurance

For patients, that can feel like delays, denials, or being told to “try something else first” — even when a treatment is already working.

➞ Effects on Your Local Pharmacy



Why Patients Worry About Medication Choices

Price negotiations can influence which drugs insurance plans prefer to cover.

That can mean:

- Being switched to a different medication for non-medical reasons
- Losing access to a drug that works well for you
- Facing stricter prior authorization or step therapy rules

Lower prices don't always translate into lower out-of-pocket costs, and they don't guarantee continuity of care.



What This Means for Future Treatments



Today's pricing decisions also affect tomorrow's medicines. If companies see uncertainty or instability:

- Fewer new treatments may be developed
- Some diseases may receive less research focus
- Smaller biotech companies may struggle to bring innovations forward

For patients waiting on new options, this matters.

Why Your Voice is So Important

Patients experience these impacts first — often without warning.

- You understand how delays affect your health
- You know what losing access would mean for your life
- You can explain what “affordable” really looks like in practice

Your experience adds context that numbers alone cannot.



The Bottom Line

Lowering costs is an important goal. But patients should never pay the price through lost access, fewer choices, or delayed care.

A system that works for patients:

- Listens to patient experiences
- Protects access and continuity of care
- Considers real-world consequences — not just budgets

That's why understanding this issue — and participating when possible — matters.