

I have serious concerns that only one side of the equation is being addressed .Prices alone are not the answer. Economies need to be made in all government departments to make them more efficient and lean, as we do in the private sector. From my standpoint as an independent pharmacist in a family pharmacy for 77 years, we have had to make many changes for market reasons. We most certainly need fair compensation for services rendered. Fair drug prices is only one thing. Fair fees and mark-ups MUST be factored in. Dispensing requirements, prescription adaptation, medication reviews in counseling, daily requests medication continuations and prescription counseling is increasing dramatically putting increased pressures on pharmacists' time and expertise!. My pharmacy supports 40-50 charitable groups yearly which is significant. A 30-days trial prescription should be seriously considered for your cost savings!. Manufacturers' trade allowances as outlined in my previous e-mail should be left in place to help support some of our services which are ESSENTIAL!

Signed John W. Staples,R.Ph. pharmacist/owner