

Diabetes and Prescription Drug Affordability

Presentation for the Interim Joint Committee
on Health, Welfare, and Family Services

June 2, 2022

DIABETES
PATIENT
ADVOCACY
COALITION 

Diabetes in Kentucky

464,000 or 13.3% of Kentuckians had diabetes in 2019

- The rate is double that of Kentucky adults in 2000
- 18% of adults on Medicaid have diagnosed diabetes
- 9% of patients covered by the Kentucky Employee Health Plan have diagnosed diabetes

Another 11% of Kentuckians have pre-diabetes and are at risk for developing diabetes

Approximately 1/3 of people with diabetes are insulin-dependent

- Although typically associated with Type I Diabetes, insulin is necessary for some people managing Type II Diabetes or gestational diabetes

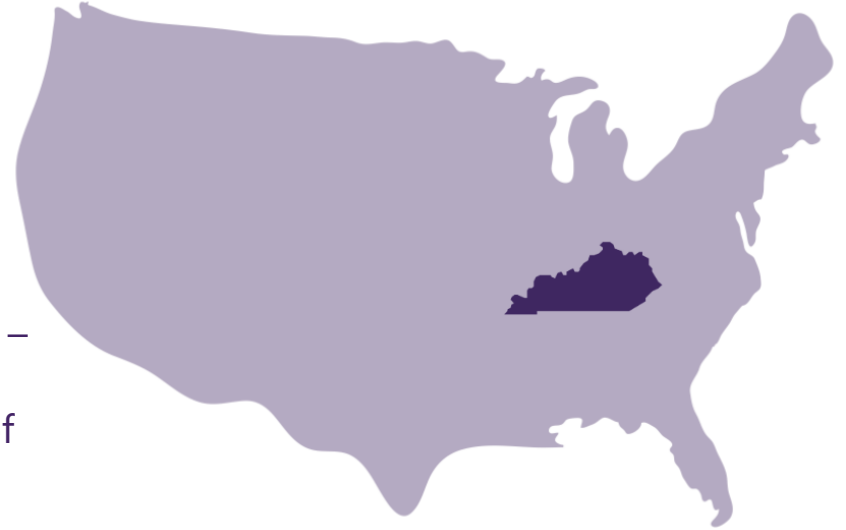
Kentucky is a leader in addressing diabetes

First state to:

- Recognize and certify diabetes educators
- Require a Diabetes Action Plan

Legislation has been passed to:

- Cap maximum out-of-pocket cost for insulin at \$30/monthly supply
- Cover CGMs through KY Connect
- Establish the KY Prescription Assistance Program – a national model
- Allow pharmacists to dispense a 30-day supply of insulin in emergency situations (Kevin's Law)
- Ban CAAPs so that manufacturer assistance counts toward patient OOP max



KEHP lauded as model in how to structure benefits to improve outcomes for people with diabetes

Why are medications still out of reach for some?

First, state legislation has its limitations. Take copay caps, for instance:

Who is covered?

- State regulated health insurance plans (state employees, state exchange - Kynect)
- ~10% of the state

Who is not covered?

- Uninsured Kentuckians, ERISA, Medicare, Medicaid, military & veterans



**State-level legislation like the copay caps doesn't apply to
90% of Kentuckians**

Why are medications still out of reach for some?

Second, our broken system offers a perverse incentive called a rebate.



Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEM6s1mm6n4>

SB 134 - Example at the Pharmacy Counter

Here's how SB 134 would save money for a Kentuckian on a state-based health plan

Current State

Retail List Price: \$150

Rebate: \$72

Insurance Pays: \$78

Patient Pays: \$150

With Reform

Retail List Price: \$150

Rebate: \$72

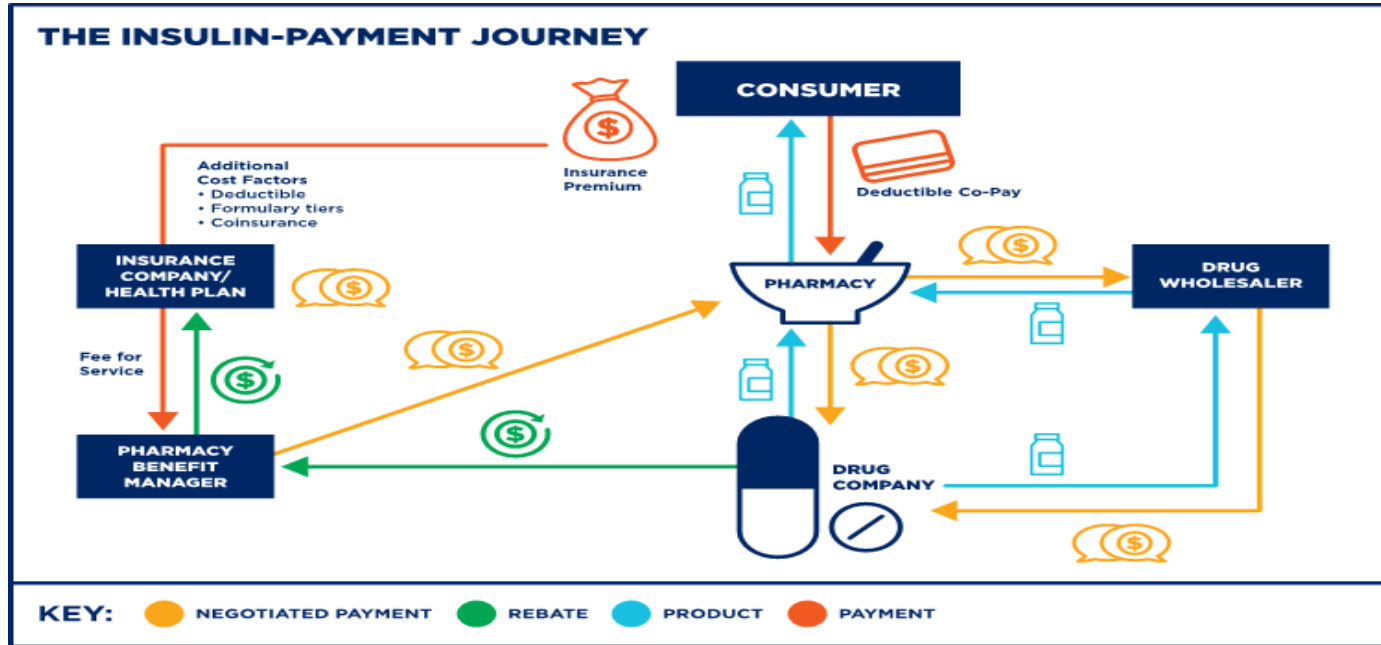
Insurance Pays: \$78

Patient Pays: \$78

For illustrative purposes, model does not depict pharmacy fees



**Blame for drug pricing goes all around the system;
Players consolidate power, put profit over patients**



As states rush to fix, often redundant, unhelpful, and/or difficult to enact legislation arises

The cost of insulin

FIRST THERE WAS

Humalog

\$275

insulin lispro injection
100 units/mL

NovoLog

insulin aspart injection 100 Units/mL

\$289

LANTUS
insulin glargine injection 100 Units/mL

\$284

NOW THERE IS



Admelog
insulin lispro
injection 100 Units/mL

\$233



\$145

basaglar
(insulin glargine)
injection
100 Units/mL

pens



Insulin Lispro

Injection

\$82

ReliOn

NovoLog
insulin aspart injection 100 Units/mL

\$73

\$270



Semglee
(insulin glargine-yfgn) injection
100 units/mL (U-100)

\$99



Insulin Glargine
(insulin glargine-yfgn) Injection
100 units/mL (U-100)

Biosimilars and generics are new tools in the fight to reduce insulin costs

We're working with Congress to improve insulin coverage nationwide

- Copay cap
- Waive deductibles
- Biosimilar and generic tiering

And raising awareness of new sources for free or lower cost insulin

amazon pharmacy

GoodRx

Kentucky
Prescription
Assistance
Program

DISPENSARY OF
HOPE

CIVICA

* Coming soon

DPI
AC

How can you help? Continue to make Ky a leader

Pass through rebates to patients at the point of sale

- SB134 proposed 80% pass through to patients
- West Virginia was the first to do so

Embrace models with proven effectiveness

- KPAP: small budget, big impact
- DAP: data, prevention, education

Spread the word about affordable options

- Biosimilars and generics, Walmart & Amazon Marketplace
- Build awareness of KPAP
- NEVER ration – help is available

Questions?