

# 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

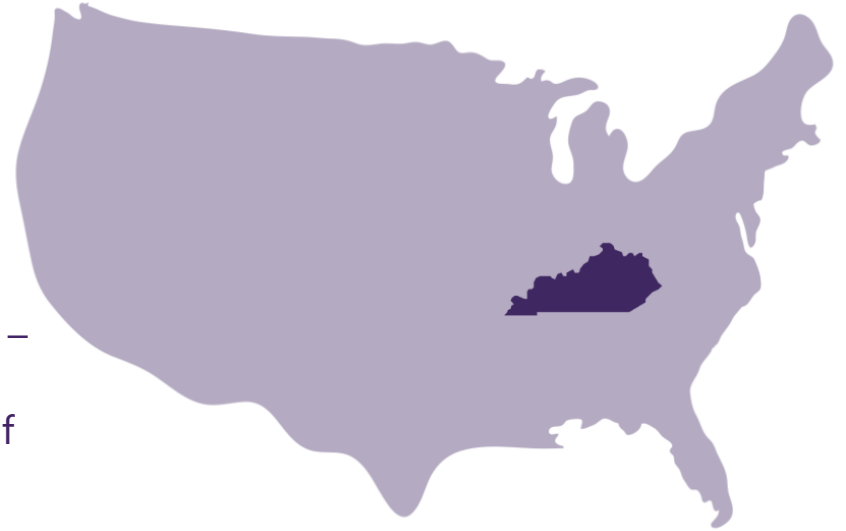
# Kentucky is a leader in addressing diabetes

## 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

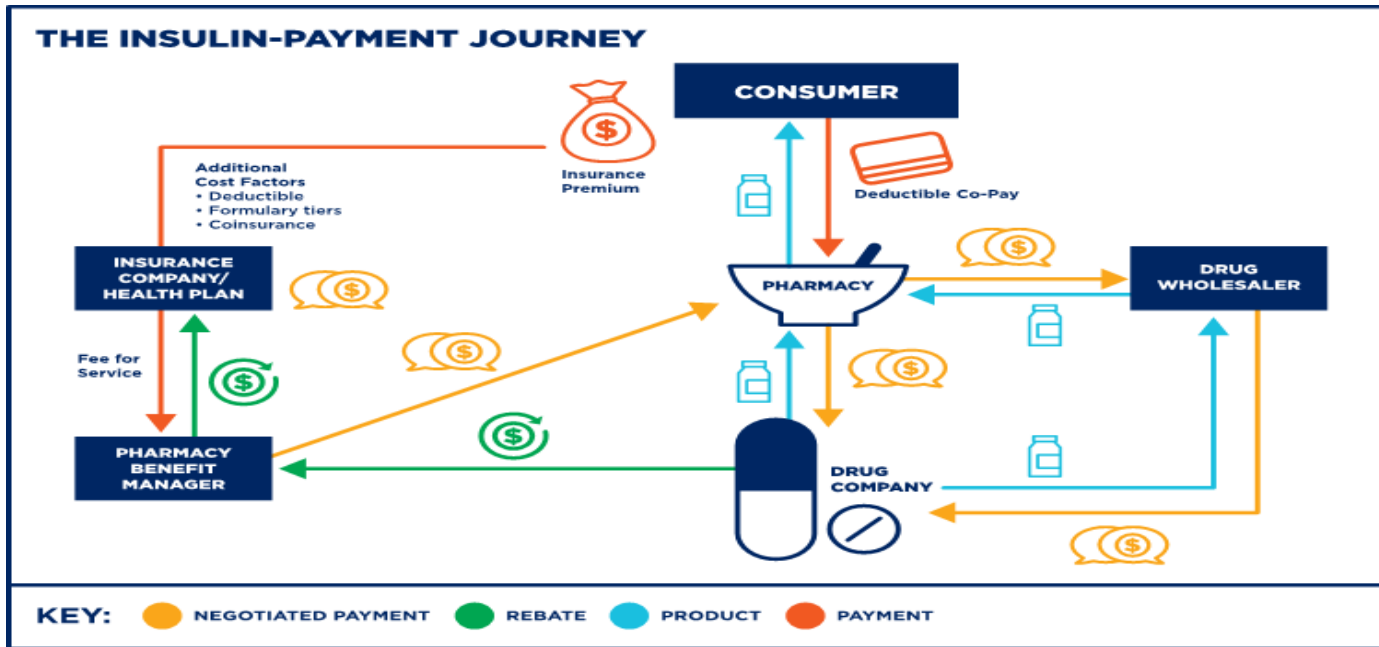
***Rebate:*** \$72

***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<sup>®</sup>  
insulin lispro  
injection 100 Units/mL

\$233



\$145



basaglar<sup>®</sup>  
(insulin glargine)  
injection  
100 Units/mL

pens

Insulin Lispro

Injection

\$82



ReliOn<sup>™</sup>

NovoLog<sup>®</sup>  
insulin aspart injection 100 Units/mL

\$73



Semglee<sup>®</sup>  
(insulin glargine-yfgn) injection  
100 units/mL (U-100)

\$270



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

\$99



# 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?