

The cost of managing a chronic condition in America has gotten too high.



The rising cost of brand name, single source drugs has **created an affordability challenge for patients**. This is especially the case for those reliant on these medications to manage chronic conditions, leading to lower adherence.

Lapses in medication adherence can result in poorer health outcomes and higher healthcare costs for both the patient and plan sponsor. **Adherence is key to managing complex conditions and preventing the development of commonly occurring comorbidities**. Yet, many are putting their health at risk by prioritizing other expenses over their medications out of financial necessity.

Often referred to as cardiometabolic due to the interrelationship between the conditions, **diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease** are among the biggest health problems in the United States.

50% of U.S. adults are projected to be obese by 2030 and the number of people with diabetes will increase by 39.3% by 2060. Both conditions are key risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Research estimates the combined cost of these conditions is \$838 billion annually.²

People living with these conditions should be focused on their care — not wondering how they'll afford their medication.

3 in 10

adults report not taking their medicines as prescribed because of the cost¹

A step closer to affordable medications

The **Express Scripts Patient Assurance®** program improves member affordability of select brand-name single-source drugs, increasing adherence and lowering downstream medical costs. **Members who use participating medications will pay no more than \$25 for up to a 34-day supply**, any time they fill at any in-network retail pharmacy, leading to:



Better affordability

100% of the Patient Assurance value is provided directly to the member at point of sale to reduce their out-of-pocket costs



Improved predictability

Help ease the burden of high out-of-pocket costs, particularly for people with coinsurance or who have to satisfy a high deductible



Increased adherence

Members are more likely to continue to take their therapies as prescribed when cost is not a barrier

Members in Patient Assurance were 30% less likely to abandon their insulin regimen after the initial insulin fill.³

Patient assurance impact on plans and patients

The Express Scripts research team examined adherence rates and total cost of care for members using non-insulin hypoglycemic agents used to treat Type 2 diabetes.³

In 2021, members enrolled in the Patient Assurance program improved adherence to their medications by 2.5%. For enrolled members with household incomes of less than \$50K per year, **adherence improved by 5.7%**.

Enrolled member savings

50.5%

decrease in total diabetes-related medical and pharmacy cost share

Plan sponsor savings

\$1,151

lower medical costs per patient, driven by:

+ 18.6% lower outpatient costs

+ 17.7% lower inpatient costs and

+ 12.1% lower emergency room costs

In 2024, nearly 300,000 patients using diabetes therapies received financial relief totaling \$61M due to their plan sponsor’s participation in the Patient Assurance Program. And, more than \$534 million in total medical cost savings was achieved for plan sponsors in 2024 thanks to increased adherence and improved outcomes.⁴

Participation requirements

There is no fee to enroll. Plan sponsors will need to ensure their plan design aligns with the following:

✓

Set member cost share

Copayments/coinsurance will need to be set between \$25–\$75 for 34-day prescriptions

\$

Provide first dollar coverage

For preferred participating products (diabetes, weight-loss and cardiovascular therapies)

☆

Applying value to accumulators

Provide intent on how pharma value and member’s cost-share is applied

Start delivering tangible savings for your members and your plan. Contact your account representative to sign up today.

1. Kaiser Family Foundation, [Public Opinion on Prescription Drugs and Their Prices](#), Oct 2024

2. Evernorth Health Services, [Study: Cardiometabolic prevention key to improving health outcomes and lowering costs](#), Nov 2024

3. Internal analysis of patients with Type 2 diabetes enrolled in Express Scripts Patient Assurance Program in 2021

4. Express Scripts book of business data, 2024