



PDAB concludes its 2026 consumer outreach project

The Oregon Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) completed its 2026 consumer outreach project – which included seven online and in-person community forums in April and May – with an extended public comment period at its May 20 board meeting.

The meetings, which were held in Salem, Portland, Redmond, and Beaverton, and on Zoom, provided an opportunity for the board to hear from patients, caregivers, and others about how medication costs affect their daily lives, finances, and communities. There were 57 people who attended the in-person and online events and 95 attended the board meeting.



The May 12 community forum was held at the Asian Health and Service Center in Portland.

All board members participated in the community forums: [Shelley Bailey, Dan Hartung, Lauri Hoagland, Dan Kennedy, Michele Koder, Chris Laman, and John Murray](#).

“It’s the best part of the work we do is hearing from people and trying to contribute in a meaningful way and at a personal level,” Bailey said.

Most of the attendees who spoke at the forums were patients concerned about insurance denials for their specific prescriptions or changes in their health insurance policies that limited their prescription drug choices. The consumer outreach project was part of the board’s ongoing annual drug review process, during which PDAB reviews and identifies up to nine prescription drugs that may create affordability challenges for patients and the Oregon health care system. The consumer and patient feedback gathered during this year’s community forums will help inform the board’s 2026 report to the Oregon Legislature, which is due in December.

PDAB also distributed an online feedback form for patients about the prescription drugs under review. Read some of the survey responses in the board’s [2026 outreach report](#). You will also find event summaries and recommendations for future outreach projects in the report.

Michael Plett of the Department of Consumer and Business Services contributed to this article.



PDAB gains a new board member

Noelle Redmond, director of clinical pharmacy services at Cambia Health Solutions/Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield in Portland, has joined PDAB. Redmond was nominated by the governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate June 17. The pharmaceutical policy executive has more than 20 years of experience dedicated to making prescription medications more accessible and affordable for the people who need them most.

Redmond leads evidence-based pharmaceutical coverage strategies that serve more than 2 million health plan members. Her work has reduced systemic pharmaceutical costs by over \$390 million annually while improving medication access and quality – savings that help mitigate premium increases and expand coverage for essential services.



Noelle Redmond

“I’ve seen firsthand how high drug prices force impossible choices – patients skipping doses, splitting pills, or abandoning treatment,” Redmond said. “And I’ve seen what’s possible when we apply rigorous strategies to bend the cost curve.”

Throughout her career, Noelle has consistently championed innovative approaches to drug affordability. She developed and optimized a market-leading biosimilar program that has delivered more than \$200 million in savings since 2019 while improving member access and reducing cost share. She has also launched sustainable coverage frameworks addressing critical health needs including obesity treatment, HIV care, family building, immunization, and women’s health.

“In America, drug coverage is often directly connected to drug access, and the system is far more complicated than just the price a patient pays,” she said. “I believe someone with my experience and perspective can help further the mission of the board in a productive and sustainable way.”

Redmond earned a doctor of pharmacy from Purdue University and holds pharmacy licenses in Oregon, Indiana, and Missouri. She has been an adjunct assistant professor at Butler University and Purdue University and clinical educator of pharmacists and pharmacy interns at Walgreens. Redmond will pursue a master’s degree in public health at Harvard beginning in the fall. A resident of Oregon since 2010, Redmond lives in the Portland area with her husband and two children where she enjoys all that the Pacific Northwest has to offer.



PDAB wants to hear from you about Rx drug costs

It's not too late to submit a feedback form about the prescription drugs under review by the board. PDAB is reviewing the following medications to evaluate their affordability and their impact on Oregonians and the state's health care system: Jardiance, Mounjaro, Ozempic, Humulin R U-500, Keytruda, Verzenio, Xeljanz, Ocrevus, Skyrizi, Tremfya, and Xolair.

Do you or a family member or friend take any of these medications? Please share your story with the board. The forms will be open through Aug. 31.

The board invites patients, caregivers, advocacy groups, medical professionals, scientific professionals, manufacturers, safety net clinics, pharmacy benefit managers, and health insurers to submit a feedback form about the prescription drugs currently under review.

The patient forms are available in English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese. Find the [feedback forms](#) on the PDAB website. If you have questions, email pdab@dcbs.oregon.gov or call 971-374-3724.

PDAB meeting date	Prescription drug	Main treatment
June 17	Jardiance	Type 2 diabetes
June 17	Mounjaro	Type 2 diabetes
June 17	Ozempic	Type 2 diabetes
June 17	Humulin R U-500 (concentrated and KwikPen)	Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes
July 15	Keytruda*	Cancer
July 15	Verzenio	Cancer
July 15	Xeljanz	Autoimmune and inflammatory conditions
Aug. 19	Ocrevus	Multiple sclerosis (MS)
Aug. 19	Skyrizi*	Inflammatory conditions
Aug. 19	Tremfya	Plaque psoriasis
Aug. 19	Xolair	Allergic and inflammatory conditions in adults and children
Sept. 16 and Oct. 21	* Drug for rare diseases or conditions.	The board will review all drugs and discuss recommendations for the annual report for the Oregon Legislature.

2026 PDAB prescription drug review schedule



Scan the QR code
to fill out a
[feedback form.](#)



Oregon PDAB program update by Sarah Young



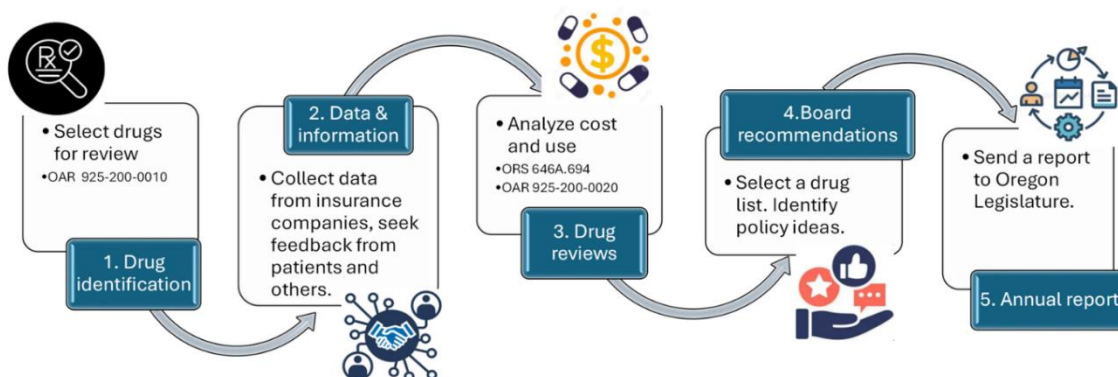
*Sarah Young,
executive director*

At the June 17 meeting, the board started its deep dive into the individual drug reviews. The board has made this review process an iterative process to enable and encourage public comment on all the drugs. On June 9, staff released version 1 of the drug review packets for the insulins and antidiabetic drugs, but these are not the final versions of these packets. Final versions will be posted to the website in September or October after board review and input. This iterative process provides multiple weeks for stakeholders to review the packets and provide feedback. PDAB staff will continue to update the drug review packets over the next two months to incorporate additional public comments and to correct any identified errors. The reports are posted on the [drug review page](#) of the PDAB website.

Please check the version history on page 3 of each drug review packet for the latest updates.

PDAB welcomes input about all the drugs under review from interested parties including patients, people with medical training, safety net clinics, manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers, and insurers. People can share written comments through the feedback forms or by submitting a comment letter. The public feedback forms will remain open through August. This will help the board gather as much information as possible to inform its findings.

Also at the June 17 meeting, board members began discussing policy concepts to research and consider for this year's report to the Oregon Legislature. The board will continue its discussion about potential policy recommendations at the July 15 meeting.



How PDAB reviews prescription drugs This diagram shows the five steps of the Oregon PDAB's drug review process. Currently, the board is on Step 3, analyzing cost and use.



Rx in the news



- [“Governor Lee Signs FAIR Rx Act into Law,”](#) from the Tennessee Pharmacists Association, May 22, 2026.

Tennessee became one of the few states to ban pharmacy benefit managers from owning pharmacies. The new law prohibits PBMs from owning pharmacies and requires PBMs to divest pharmacy ownership by July 1, 2028. [CVS](#) and [Cigna’s Express Scripts](#) have filed lawsuits. They have also filed lawsuits against Arkansas, the first state to pass [legislation](#) about PBM pharmacy ownership.

- [“Maryland Drug Affordability Board puts payment limits on Ozempic,”](#) from WYPR Baltimore, May 19, 2026.

The Maryland PDAB placed upper payment limits on Jardiance in April and Ozempic in May, estimating a savings to state and local governments of \$5.8 million annually for Ozempic and \$320,000 for Jardiance.

- [“Judge temporarily blocks Colorado’s first-in-the-nation price cap on a prescription drug,”](#) from The Colorado Sun, July 2, 2026.

A U.S. District Court judge in Denver placed an injunction on the Colorado PDAB’s price cap on Enbrel, blocking the cap from taking effect in 2027.

2026 board meetings

Oregon PDAB meetings are open to the public and held online on ZoomGov the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 8 a.m. unless the board adjusts the time. Find agendas, meeting materials, minutes, videos, and public comments on the [board calendar and materials](#) page of the PDAB website.

To receive agenda and meeting materials notices, click here to [sign up](#) for PDAB notices.

Sign up to speak during the public comment portion of a board meeting by filling out the [public comment form](#) on the PDAB website at least 24 hours before the meeting. To submit a letter to the board, fill out the [public comment form](#) on the PDAB website at least 48 hours before the meeting. Here is the schedule of meetings remaining in 2026. To register for the board meeting, click on the meeting date.

- [Weds., July 15, 8 a.m.](#)
- [Weds., Aug. 19, 8 a.m.](#)
- [Weds., Sept. 16, 8 a.m.](#)
- [Weds., Oct. 21, 8 a.m.](#)
- [Weds., Nov. 18, 8 a.m.](#)
- [Weds., Dec. 16, 8 a.m.](#)