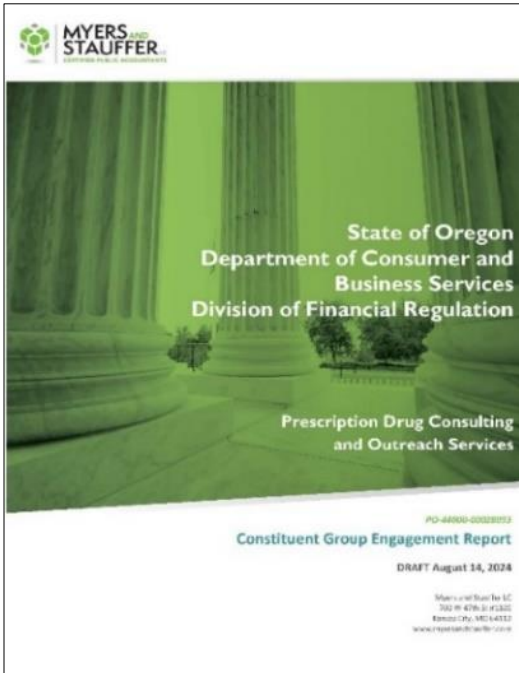




Oregon Prescription Drug
Affordability Board

THE QUARTERLY

PDAB develops upper payment limit plan, draft report



In 2023, the Oregon Legislature expanded the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) mission through ORS 646A.685 to “develop a plan for establishing upper payment limits (UPL) on drugs sold in this state that are subject to affordability reviews under ORS 646A.694.” A UPL would limit what purchasers in Oregon would pay for specific drugs identified by PDAB. To ensure broad constituent input, the board worked with consultants Myers and Stauffer LC, along with consultant Lou Savage, to host 23 community meetings and focus groups this past April through July. The board also hosted question and answer sessions with constituents during the July 24 board meeting.

PDAB has continued its work with consultants Myers and Stauffer on a UPL study required by Senate Bill 192. At the Oct. 2 board meeting, Myers and Stauffer presented [concepts for implementing an upper payment limit in Oregon](#), which the board discussed. Myers and Stauffer will update the report based on board feedback and bring the plan back for board review at the Oct. 16 meeting. On Nov. 20, the board will consider the final plan

for approval before presenting it to the Oregon Legislature. [Watch the discussion from the Oct. 2 meeting.](#)

Another component of the draft UPL plan is the constituent group engagement report, which Myers and Stauffer presented during the Aug. 21 board meeting. Myers and Stauffer surveyed and met with constituents over the summer and asked for UPL feedback from insurance companies, hospitals, patient advocacy groups, pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacies, and 340B covered entities. In the constituent group engagement report, Myers and Stauffer provided several considerations for board members.

Find all the constituent feedback, survey results, recommendations and board considerations [in the report](#) and in the August [presentation slides](#). Watch the presentation to the board in the Aug. 21 [meeting video](#).

New upper payment limit (UPL) page on the PDAB website

The board has created a new web page about the [upper payment limit study](#). The page has links to reports, meeting videos of board discussions, slideshows, documents submitted by constituents, and 16 video recordings of the constituent and consumer meetings.



PDAB will use a five phase approach to affordability reviews

PDAB will use a five phase approach to the affordability reviews in 2025.

In Phase 1, the board will identify prescription drugs that are eligible for affordability review. The board will receive the prescription drug lists from the Oregon Drug Price Transparency Program, which receives information submitted by insurance companies and manufacturers. Information about insulin comes from the Oregon Health Authority’s All Payer All Claims (APAC) reporting program. The lists will be presented to the board at an upcoming board meeting and posted on the PDAB website before the meeting.

In Phase 2, the board will narrow the lists and select the insulin products and prescription drugs for review.

Phase 3 will be asking insurance companies to submit information about the drugs on the review list. The board will also ask manufacturers and other constituents to contribute information about the specific drugs on the list under ORS 646A.689 and ORS 743.025. The board will include this added information in reports prepared for each drug.

In Phase 4, the board will review the insulin and prescription drugs one at a time based on criteria established in Oregon law.

In Phase 5, the board selects nine drugs and at least one insulin product that may create affordability challenges to consumers and the healthcare system and present them to the Oregon Legislature.

Affordability review phase	What the board will do
Phase 1	Identify prescription drug preliminary lists using information provided by the Oregon Drug Price Transparency Program and All Payer All Claims reporting program.
Phase 2	Select prescription drugs from the preliminary list for affordability review using OAR 925-200-0010 and create a subset list.
Phase 3	Ask insurance companies, manufacturers and other constituents to submit information about the drugs on the subset list.
Phase 4	Conduct the affordability review of the drugs on the subset list one at a time based on criteria under ORS 646A.694 and OAR 925-200-0020 .
Phase 5	Select nine prescription drugs and at least one insulin product that may create affordability challenges for Oregon healthcare systems or patients. Send list to the Oregon Legislature.





PDAB Member profile: John Murray

Tell us about your family's pharmacy history in Central Oregon?

Murray's Drug was started by Rod and Meg Murray in 1959 and has been in business for three generations. In 1990, my wife, Ann, and I bought the business. We are both graduates of Oregon State University College of Pharmacy. Two of our six children, Laurie and Sean, graduated from OSU-OHSU College of Pharmacy and serve as pharmacists with Murray's Drug. Our flagship store in Heppner is in a building constructed with stone from a local quarry in 1901. The stone building survived a major flood in 1903. We now also have pharmacies in Condon and Boardman.



What is your role at the pharmacies?

I oversee the day-to-day pharmacy operations of filling 200-300 prescriptions per day and providing clinical services such as vaccinations. I travel to the pharmacies each week, with a one-hour commute time each way. We serve people across a 3,000-square-mile area.

How is Murray's Drug involved in the community?

We host community events including the Murray's Beer and Wine Tasting every August at the Morrow County Fair and the Murray's Irish Beer and Wine Fest every March during the annual St. Patrick's celebration in Heppner. Ann and I also have testified before the

Oregon Legislature on issues important to rural pharmacies.

What other boards and commissions do you serve on?

For 23 years, I was on the Morrow County Health District's board of directors, serving as the board chair for eight years. I am vice president of the Port of Morrow Board of Commissioners, where I have been serving since 2019. My father-in-law, Larry Lindsay, served with the Port of Morrow Commission for 52 years.

Why is your Prescription Drug Affordability Board work important to you?

I see first-hand the impact of high cost, unaffordable medications and how it affects patients. I am committed to preserving the rural way of life for the next generation, making sure rural Oregonians have access to affordable, equitable, and quality health care. Turning in a prescription at the drug store should not cause a patient to have trepidation that they won't be able to buy groceries that week. As a practicing pharmacist in rural Eastern Oregon, I have seen this happen far too many times. I am involved in PDAB because the board is working hard to find relief for the many Oregonians who are struggling to pay for unaffordable medications.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy many outdoor activities, including archery hunting, snowmobiling, spending time in the mountains, gardening, and travel.

Lauri Hoagland joins the board this month



Lauri Hoagland, a nurse practitioner for a school-based health center in Central Point, has been appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate to serve on the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Her first PDAB meeting was Oct. 2. Hoagland fills a vacancy created by a resignation.

Hoagland has been a nurse practitioner for 39 years, including 27 years with Kaiser Permanente in Northern California. For the past 12 years, she has worked for La Clinica, a Southern Oregon FQHC, seeing patients of all ages in the clinic, on the mobile van, in migrant camps, and in schools. She speaks Spanish and has served a variety of patient communities. She sees patients with Oregon Health Plan, who have no insurance, Medicare and private plans, and is aware of the barriers to care that occur when drugs are not affordable. “Many of our most vulnerable residents are people of color,” she said. “This board must address diversity, equity, and inclusion if all residents of Oregon are to be able to have high quality health care as a human right, currently mandated in our constitution.” She believes diversity, equity, and inclusion means looking at the many barriers to health care faced by different populations in our state based on their ethnicity and geographic locations. “I’m excited to be joining this board so I can be the voice and experience of my patients.”

Amy Burns, John Murray reappointed to the board

The Oregon Senate confirmed the reappointment of PDAB Board Vice Chair Amy Burns, vice president and pharmacist at a coordinated care organization in Grants Pass, and John Murray, a pharmacist and owner of Murrays Drugs in Heppner, Condon, and Boardman. The eight-member board also includes Chair Shelley Bailey, CEO of Famlee fertility clinic; Dan Hartung, a professor of pharmacy at Oregon State University; Robert Judge, a chief client officer of pharmacy services at MODA Health; Chris Laman, a vice president of strategy and pharmacist at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria; and Dan Kennedy, a retired pharmacist with Providence Health Plan in Portland. [Read board member bios on the PDAB website.](#)



PDAB learns about OHSU health policy collaborative



PDAB invited the OHSU Center for Evidence-Based Policy to give a presentation at the Oct. 2 board meeting about the center’s work in research and economic analysis. Beth Shaw, MSC, research director, and Susan Stuard, MBA, director of technical assistance, said the center supports state health policy decisions using evidence evaluation and synthesis. They have worked with 37 states over the past two years applying data and evidence to public policy challenges. The center is not funded by industry or associations but receives grants from Arnold Ventures and The Commonwealth Fund, said Rhonda Anderson of the center.

Shaw and Stuard presented ways they could help PDAB with decision-making support, including stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, board member training, and clinical and process consultation. They said the OHSU center could assist during the board’s prescription drug affordability review process by providing background, benefits and harms, health equity information, therapeutic alternatives for the drugs, disease summary, patient and caregiver perspectives, and the drug’s place in care.

The center has helped many organizations including New York State Medicaid Evidence-Based Benefit Review Advisory Committee, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission coverage determination process, Washington Health Care Authority’s Health Technology Assessment program, Louisiana Medicaid coverage determination process, Oregon Health Evidence Review Commission, and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy, and Financing All Payer Global Budget Workgroup.

The center was established in 2003 at Oregon Health and Science University.

Board members said they liked the idea of working with OHSU Center for Evidence-Based Policy and would like to see a formal proposal. View the [PowerPoint presentation](#) or [watch the discussion during the board meeting](#).

PDAB considers 2024 policy recommendations to send to Legislature

Each year the Prescription Drug Affordability Board prepares policy recommendations that would help improve prescription drug affordability. In 2024, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 1508 to lower the insulin co-pay limit, which PDAB recommended earlier. In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 192 to expand PBM reporting requirements and study upper payment limits, which the board had recommended.

The board is contemplating potential policy recommendations to send to the Oregon Legislature again this year. The recommendations may include updates to ORS 646A.693 – ORS 646A.697, the board’s statutory authority. The board is also considering policy recommendations that include having patient assistance programs report to the Drug Price Transparency Program, adding reporting for copay accumulators, a uniform rate for critical access pharmacies, disclosures about reimbursements and fees, using a statewide purchasing group, and using a preferred drug list for the Oregon Health Plan. [Read the proposals in the Oct. 2 agenda materials.](#) [Watch the board’s discussion at the Oct. 2 meeting.](#)

2024 meetings (click on dates or times to register)



[Wednesday, Oct. 16](#)

[9:30 a.m.](#)



[Wednesday, Nov. 20](#)

[9:30 a.m.](#)



[Wednesday, Dec. 18](#)

[9:30 a.m.](#)

2025 Board meeting calendar

[Wednesday, Jan. 15](#)

[Wednesday, Feb. 19](#)

[Wednesday, March 19](#)

[Wednesday, April 16](#)

[Wednesday, May 21](#)

[Wednesday, June 18](#)

[Wednesday, July 16](#)

[Wednesday, Aug. 20](#)

[Wednesday, Sept. 17](#)

[Wednesday, Oct. 15](#)

[Wednesday, Nov. 19](#)

[Wednesday, Dec. 17](#)