



## PDAB would love to hear from Oregonians

The Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) is requesting information from people and organizations affected by the cost of prescription drugs the board has identified on its [subset list](#) for upcoming affordability reviews this summer. This is an opportunity for people to provide meaningful input that will help the board evaluate drug affordability for Oregonians and our health care system. The board would love to hear from the following:

- ✓ [Patients, caregivers and advocacy groups – En español](#)
- ✓ [Individuals with scientific or medical training \(medical providers, professors, scientists\)](#)
- ✓ [Safety net providers \(340B entities\)](#)
- ✓ [Pharmaceutical manufacturers](#)
- ✓ [Pharmacy benefit managers](#)

**How to participate:** Select the relevant group above to go to the survey, answer the questions, and submit the survey. Find the subset list of prescription drugs in question one of the forms. Surveys will close April 30, 2025.

**May I submit letters or research materials?** If you would like to submit letters or research materials, please email them to [pdab@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:pdab@dcbs.oregon.gov).

**What type of questions are on the surveys?** The surveys have specific questions for each group. For example, the board is asking patients and caregivers about how much they paid out of pocket for the drug and whether the drug was available when needed. The board based the questions on provisions found in [OAR 925-200-0020](#), the Oregon Administrative Rule that guides board members through the affordability process. Learn more about affordability reviews on [Page 4](#) of this newsletter.

**Is there a survey in Spanish?** The patients and caregivers survey has been [translated into Spanish](#).

**How will the survey information be used?** The board will include the survey information in the affordability review material packets compiled for each drug under review. The packets help inform board members about the drug's effect on patients and the health care system. The survey results will be aggregated so that any personal or identifiable information will not be made public.

**What are other ways I can share my experience during a board meeting?** PDAB is inviting people to share their stories about the prescription drugs on the review list during the May 21 online board meeting. Sign up to speak by submitting the [public comment form](#) on the PDAB website.

Remember to  
submit your survey  
by April 30, 2025.

**For Oregon health insurance companies, a request for information will be made through a data call.**

The board will seek a request for information from Oregon health insurance companies through a data call. The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) will send out the data call on behalf of the board regarding the subset list of drugs for affordability review. The board reviewed the data call template during the January and March meetings. Select the link to open the [data call template](#).

# Help PDAB determine drug affordability!

## PDAB would love to hear from Oregonians, including:

- ✓ Patients, caregivers, and advocacy groups
- ✓ Individuals with scientific or medical training (medical providers, professors, scientists)
- ✓ Safety net providers (340B entities)
- ✓ Pharmaceutical manufacturers
- ✓ Pharmacy benefit managers

The Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) is seeking input from individuals and organizations affected by the prescription drugs selected by the board to review. The surveys aim to collect insight to assess drug affordability.

Go to the [PDAB affordability review page](#) or scan the QR code and select the relevant group to fill out and submit a form. Example questions include:

*How much did you pay out-of-pocket each month for the prescription drug?*

*What is the dosage and frequency of the prescription drug you take?*



440-5659 (3/25/COM)

On May 21, 2025, at 9 a.m., PDAB will host an online hearing for Oregon consumers about the impact of prescription drug costs under review. You are invited to **sign up and share your experience.**



Oregon Prescription Drug  
Affordability Board

# ¡Ayude a PDAB a determinar la asequibilidad de los medicamentos!

## A PDAB le encantaría escuchar a los habitantes de Oregon:

- ✓ Pacientes que toman medicamentos recetados
- ✓ Cuidadores de pacientes
- ✓ Grupos de representación

La Junta de Asequibilidad de Medicamentos Recetados (PDAB, por sus siglas en inglés) está buscando la opinión de personas y organizaciones afectadas por los medicamentos recetados seleccionados por la junta para revisión.

[Haga clic aquí](#) para completar y enviar la encuesta o escanear el código QR. Algunos ejemplos de preguntas son:

*¿Cuánto pagó de su bolsillo cada mes por el medicamento recetado?*

*¿Cuál es la dosis y la frecuencia del medicamento recetado que toma?*



440-5659s (3/25/COM)

El 21 de mayo de 2025, a las 9 a.m., PDAB llevará a cabo una audiencia virtual para consumidores de Oregon acerca del impacto de los costos de los medicamentos recetados que se están revisando. Le invitamos a participar y compartir su historia [pdab@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:pdab@dcbs.oregon.gov). Se ofrecerá interpretación en español para la audiencia.



Oregon Prescription Drug  
Affordability Board

# PDAB selects subset list for affordability reviews

At the March 19 meeting, PDAB selected a [subset list](#) of 27 prescription drugs for affordability reviews. Board members discussed the preliminary list of 158 drugs, applying criteria to narrow the list with the help of a [data dashboard](#) developed by PDAB staff. Watch the board discussion on the [meeting video](#). The board will review a preliminary list of insulin products during the April 16 meeting.

In an affordability review, the board considers a variety of factors about specific prescription drugs and insulin products and applies criteria to evaluate whether the drugs may cause affordability challenges for Oregonians and health care systems in the state. The board will present a list of nine drugs and at least one insulin the board identifies that meet these criteria to the Oregon Legislature in December. State statute, [ORS 646A.694](#), directs the board to conduct affordability reviews. Oregon Administrative Rules, [OAR-925-200-0010](#) and [OAR 925-200-0020](#), guide the board in the reviews.

The board began in January and February reviewing prescription drug data provided by the Drug Price Transparency (DPT) program, insulin product data from the Oregon Health Authority All Payer All Claims (APAC) database, along with data from manufacturers and insurance companies. To help with the review, PDAB is seeking information from people or groups who may be affected by the subset list of drugs. Refer to the story on [Page 1](#) of this newsletter.

## How to track the affordability reviews

The resources for each board meeting are posted on the PDAB website beneath the board meeting date on the following webpages:

- [Affordability review page](#): Find all the resources the board uses for an affordability review grouped by the date of the board meeting where the resources were presented. Also find a video link to watch the board discussion.
- [Prescription drug data](#): Find the board's new data dashboard on the PDAB data webpage under the March 19, 2025, meeting resources heading, along with Excel spreadsheets.
- [Board calendar and materials](#): Find the agenda packet, minutes, video, and public comments on this page. Click on the links beneath the board meeting date.

## May 21 hearing for consumers

PDAB will hold an online hearing during the May 21 board meeting to hear from people affected by the subset list of prescription drugs under affordability review. The board welcomes people to share their experiences. If you are a patient in Oregon who takes one or more of the drugs on the list, the board would love to hear from you. Caregivers to Oregonians are encouraged to sign up to speak as well. Here is how to sign up to speak to the board:

- [Sign up to speak](#) at the May 21 board meeting, which will include a hearing for consumers about the drugs under review.
- [Register for the May 21](#) board meeting on Zoom.



# PDAB member profile: Dan Kennedy

## **What or who inspired you to pursue a career in pharmacy?**

I came to pharmacy later in life than many. I began my college career when I was 30 years old and gained my pharmacy degree when I was 35. I really was looking for a career where I could make a significant difference in people's lives. I liked chemistry a lot, so thought that pharmacy would be a good option.



*PDAB member Dan Kennedy*

## **Where did you go to college and graduate school?**

I did my prepharmacy prerequisites at Southern Oregon University (it was Southern Oregon State College back then) in Ashland, Oregon. When I was accepted, I transferred to the only college of pharmacy in Oregon (at that time), Oregon State University. My wife continued to live in southern Oregon while I attended pharmacy school, and we'd see each other most weekends and holidays.

## **What changes did you witness in pharmacies across Oregon during your tenure in the field?**

When I graduated in 1993, the only available options in pharmacy were community/retail or hospital. There are so many more options available to graduates (now); they can work in industry, ambulatory care, managed care, regulatory to name a few. I always wanted to practice in community pharmacy because I really enjoy patient interaction and that feeling that you are truly serving patients.

## **What challenges do rural pharmacies face in Oregon?**

I think the largest challenge facing rural pharmacies in Oregon are access for patients and a dwindling reimbursement model that threatens their bottom lines. It's also difficult to recruit new pharmacists to move to rural locations, so there may be an actual shortage of pharmacists in those areas. We need to incentivize pharmacists to relocate to those areas. I think the development of critical access pharmacies is a good step forward in ensuring continued pharmacies.

## **Why is your work on the Prescription Drug Affordability Board important to you?**

My work on the PDAB is so important to me because I've really been trying to fix a broken payment model for pharmacies my entire career. At the end of the day, it's about the patient. It is so disheartening to watch patients walk away from a pharmacy counter or do without their needed medications or choosing between food or medicine. It's not what I got into this profession for.

## **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

In my free time I enjoy the beautiful outdoors, either hiking or fishing. I also enjoy music and, at one time in my past, was a pretty good trombone player and singer. Now it's mostly singing along with the radio. I also have two Generation Z boys that I'm still raising to be productive citizens. I am also the immediate past president of the Oregon State Pharmacy Association.

## PDAB approved amended board policies

At the January and February meetings, PDAB approved amended policies to guide the board in its work. Here are highlights of the changes:

- The board extended the time to receive public comment letters. People can now submit letters up to 24 hours before the board meeting, allowing more time than the previous 72-hour limit. The board accepts all public comment, even letters sent after the deadline, for review at the next board meeting.
- The board requested members who abstain from a vote give a brief explanation as to why.
- Board members will disclose meetings related to the pharmacy supply chain. This will take place at the beginning of each board meeting during the conflict of interest disclosures.
- The board will ask that only one person per organization will speak during the public comment portion of the agenda due to time constraints.

For the changes outlined in red, go to the [Jan. 15 board meeting agenda materials](#). For the final, approved policies, visit the [policies and rulemaking page](#) on the PDAB website.

## Board publishes 2024 annual report

In December 2024, the board approved the annual report with nine recommendations for the Oregon Legislature. Three of the recommendations were included in [Senate Bill 289](#). Read the story on [Page 7](#) to learn more about the bill's status. The PDAB recommendations are included in the [annual report](#) posted on the PDAB website. Here is the list of recommendations:

1. Propose a language change from “nine drugs a year” for affordability reviews to “up to nine” drugs a year.
2. Remove requirement that DCBS provide PDAB with a list of prescription drugs each calendar quarter. The information will be provided annually instead.
3. Replace the generic drug report annual requirement with a provision that relevant content would be incorporated into the affordability review report.
4. Expand patient assistance programs reporting to the Drug Price Transparency (DPT) Program.

*Continued on Page 7*

### *News you can use*

*This column features compelling articles about prescription drugs, with a brief summary.*

- “What a \$2 million per dose gene therapy reveals about drug pricing,” by Robin Fields, ProPublica, Feb. 12, 2025. [Click here to read the article.](#)

This article describes the journey of the gene therapy Zolgensma that treats children with spinal muscular atrophy, a rare, incurable disease. The journey ends in disappointment for the families involved in the initial drug trials, yet provides hope for future generations affected by this devastating disease.



*PDAB annual report with recommendations continued from Page 6*

5. Require pharmacy benefit managers and insurers to report on copay accumulators and maximizers to the DPT Program.
6. Require payers to provide a pharmacy dispensing fee equal to or greater than the dispensing fee used in Oregon's medical assistance programs.
7. Require reimbursement of the dispensing fee.
8. Require Oregon Health Plan FFS and coordinated care organizations to purchase through a statewide purchasing group.
9. Extend Oregon Health Plan's preferred drug list for all classes of prescription drugs.

Learn more about the recommendations on [pages 11-12](#) of the PDAB 2024 annual report. Listen to the board discussion about the recommendations at the [Dec. 18, 2024, board meeting](#).

## Senate Health Care Committee advances Senate Bill 289

Alex Cheng, deputy administrator for the Division of Financial Regulation, and Cortnee Whitlock, senior policy analyst for PDAB, spoke to the Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care about [Senate Bill 289](#) on March 6. Senate Bill 289 requested three housekeeping changes for PDAB on behalf of DCBS. The bill aligns with the recommendations made by PDAB at its December meeting and published in the board's annual report. Refer to the story on [pages 6-7](#) of this newsletter. The Senate Bill would:

- Propose a language change from "nine drugs a year" for affordability reviews to "up to nine" drugs a year.
- Remove requirement that DCBS provide PDAB with a list of prescription drugs each calendar quarter. The information will be provided annually instead.
- Replace the generic drug report annual requirement with a provision that relevant content would be incorporated into the affordability review report.



*Oregon Senate Chambers*

"The recommendations are a cleanup to align the need for better and more accurate planning for products to be delivered," Whitlock said during the presentation. [Watch the video](#) of the presentation for more information.

The bill was adopted by the Health Care Committee on March 13 and had its third reading on the House floor March 24.



## 2025 calendar: click on dates to register

<a href="#"><u>Wednesday, April 16</u></a>	9 a.m.
<a href="#"><u>Wednesday, May 21</u></a>	9 a.m.
<a href="#"><u>Wednesday, June 18</u></a>	9 a.m.
<a href="#"><u>Wednesday, July 16</u></a>	9 a.m.
<a href="#"><u>Wednesday, Aug. 20</u></a>	9 a.m.
<a href="#"><u>Wednesday, Sept. 17</u></a>	9 a.m.
<a href="#"><u>Wednesday, Oct. 15</u></a>	9 a.m.
<a href="#"><u>Wednesday, Nov. 19</u></a>	9 a.m.
<a href="#"><u>Wednesday, Dec. 17</u></a>	9 a.m.





The Oregon State Parks [Whale Watching Center](#) is celebrating the spring migration of gray whales along the Oregon coast. There are several key places to look for whales, including Otter Crest near Newport, where this photo was taken. Late March and early April is the time to watch for gray whales traveling north with their calves on their way to Alaska. Here is a [list of locations](#) where volunteers help visitors spot whales.

