



Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

What You Need to Know:

SB21-175: PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD (PDAB)



HOW DOES THE BOARD RUN?

This bill creates a Governor-appointed board of five experts who are tasked with reviewing prescription drug costs and analyzing the impacts of these costs on Coloradans. The Board will be independent and nonpartisan. Meetings will be held every six weeks, and individuals will serve on the board for three years at a time. The Board will also select an advisory council made up of fifteen people with varied experience in the healthcare field. This council will not have any formal power but will serve in an advisory capacity to inform board decisions.



WHAT POWER DOES THE BOARD HAVE?

The board is tasked with investigating and reviewing the affordability challenges of the most expensive drugs in the state. They have authority to set Upper Payment Limits (UPLs) on drugs they have found to be most unaffordable for consumers in Colorado. Setting a UPL is not the same as setting the price of a drug. Rather, it places a ceiling for what someone can pay for any given drug. The board has the power to set UPLs for twelve prescription drugs over the course of the first three years of the board's establishment.



HOW WILL I KNOW IF THIS IMPACTS ME?

The board has the authority to set reasonable rates through UPLs for the twelve most widely used and most expensive prescription drugs in Colorado. The board has yet to designate which drugs these are and you can help weigh in on these decisions through advocacy and public comment. Connect with Isabel Cruz at icruz@cohealthinitiative.org to get involved or track the board's progress through the PDAB webpage: <https://doi.colorado.gov/prescription-drug-affordability-review-board>.

BOARD TIMELINE

June
2021

The PDAB Bill is passed and signed into law.

Oct.
2021

The board is appointed by the governor.

Nov.
2021

The Board has its first meeting, and will continue to meet every six weeks.

April
2022

The board can start setting upper payment limits (UPLs) for certain high cost prescription drugs.

Sept.
2026

The board is set to expire, unless additional legislation is passed.



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