

It would seem helpful for pharmacists to have access, with patient permission, to their health insurer's drug plan. This would enable the pharmacist to help inform the patient about which drugs are available to them, which need prior approval for use or a tier change, and which are in network to the pharmacy so that the different prices of the drugs could be given to the patient.

More importantly, at the time of the medical visit, providers should be able to see the patient's drug plan options and prices in order to facilitate a discussion of the efficacy and side effects of a drug versus its cost. (It would be helpful to know which drugs require prior approval or a tier change ahead of submission to the pharmacy, and perhaps it would be helpful to consider the time required for providers to do so along with studying the plans.)

However, I do not believe it should be mandated that providers have electronic systems because they can be unaffordable both in terms of dollars and time. And different specialties tend to have different practice needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

I do not know if this could be added to my previous comments, but it would be great if smaller, cheaper trial packs of a new drug to the patient could be ordered, because often after a few doses, the patient cannot tolerate a drug and a new one needs to be prescribed. The way the system is now, many full month prescriptions are wasted initially, adding to the cost of care.

Thanks,

Susan Israel