

AstraZeneca Adds to Demands on Hospitals Seeking Drug Discounts

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Summary by Bloomberg AI

- AstraZeneca Plc will require hospitals and other health providers under the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to submit claims data for dispensing of the company's drugs, starting May 1.
- The policy aims to minimize diversion and duplicate discounts under the program by demanding that entities submit claims data for specific medicines purchased from AstraZeneca within 45 days of dispensing.
- AstraZeneca's policy follows similar requirements imposed by Novo Nordisk A/S and Eli Lilly & Co, and has been met with pushback from hospitals, who argue that the policies conflict with the 340B statute and impose administrative and financial burdens.

AstraZeneca Plc will soon require that hospitals and other health providers under a federal drug discount plan submit claims data for dispensing of the company's drugs, joining other manufacturers in imposing policies seeking to monitor a program that has ballooned in recent years.

The policy, set to go into effect May 1, demands that all entities under the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to submit claims data for specific medicines purchased from AstraZeneca. The plan expands the company's requirement that previously targeted pharmacies that contract with 340B entities, aiming to minimize diversion and duplicate discounts under the program.

"As the 340B landscape continues to evolve, AstraZeneca continually strives to strengthen the integrity and transparency of the 340B program and ensure it is used appropriately to support the vulnerable patients it was designed to serve," the company said in a [letter](#) obtained by Bloomberg Law. The letter was sent Monday to the hospitals and other providers.

The entities have to submit claims within 45 days of the date a drug was dispensed to a patient. Failure to provide complete, timely, and accurate claims data may result in suspension of access to 340B discounts until the required data is received and validated, the company said.

AstraZeneca's incoming policy follows similar requirements imposed earlier this year by Novo Nordisk A/S and Eli Lilly & Co. seeking to promote transparency in the program.

The 340B program requires manufacturers to provide up-front, steep drug discounts to qualifying safety-net providers, known as covered entities. The entities include hospitals, clinics, and community health centers that are designed to serve a high volume of low-income and uninsured patients.

Drugmakers have become **increasingly skeptical** of the program, which has grown significantly in recent years, questioning if discounts are going to eligible patients and if duplicate concessions occur.

Hospitals have been **pushing back** on the plans, urging the US Health Resources and Services Administration, the federal agency overseeing the 340B program, to block them. The policies conflict with the 340B statute and would impose administrative and financial burdens on entities, providers argue.

A spokesperson for HRSA has told Bloomberg Law that it is reviewing how the policies will affect 340B entities.

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