

Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board

January 26th, 2026



Administrative Update

- Next steps on new position created in LD 697
 - Board appointment
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LD 697 – New Charges & Responsibilities

- Determination of prescription drug spending targets is no longer a duty of the Board
 - The Board is now charged with:
 1. Reviewing prescription drug spending and utilization data to identify causes of high spending or rising spending
 2. Soliciting public input to identify cost-related barriers to accessing prescription drugs
 3. Assessing strategies to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and reduce the rate of growth in prescription drug spending and to reduce cost barriers for consumers
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Required Outcomes & Work Products

- **Create a policy recommendation report** to the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee, based on the strategies listed in law
 - **Recommend a program** to the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee to reduce the impact of prescription drug costs on the State's health care system, stem the rate of growth in prescription drug spending, and reduce cost barriers by October 1, 2027. A preliminary plan will be outlined in annual reports before 2027.
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Board priorities

At our last meeting, Board members agreed to return to the January meeting with **three priorities or areas of interest** to begin work on the charges passed in LD 697. The OAHC will document and organize these priorities, categorizing based on the list below.

While all ideas are welcome, the following list of strategies are included in the Board's new charge:

- Upper Payment Limits and/or Referenced Based Pricing
 - Implementing transparency requirements and regulation of supply chain entities (including PBMs regarding the role of discounts and rebates)
 - Implementing strategies to reduce out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs
 - Developing opportunities for engagement with providers and other health care professionals to disseminate information about prescription drug costs and pricing
 - Implementing strategies to reduce out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs through the regulation of insurance and the rate review process
 - Aligning the payment for prescription drugs with actual drug acquisition costs
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Next steps

Option 1: Organize meetings in 2026 based on the five highest scoring priorities shared by Board members. This work will occur in sets of two meetings per identified priority. In the first meeting, the Board will hear presentations and receive background information on a given priority. In the second meeting, the Board will engage in discussion to determine positionality and recommendations to be included in the report back to the Legislature for a given priority.

Option 2: Organize meetings in 2026 based on a wider list of priorities identified by the Board, up to ten given the new monthly meeting cadence. This provides less time for education and discussion but allows for more priorities to be touched on and reviewed. The Board would still need to determine positionality for purposes of making recommendations to the legislature.

Sample Schedule, Option 1

Date	Topic
January 26th	Priorities/organization of work
February 23	First meeting in series: Topic 1 - Education and presentations
March 23	Second meeting in series: Topic 1 - Open discussion and endorsement of strategies
April 21	First meeting in series: Topic 2 - Education and presentations
May 18	Second meeting in series: Topic 2 - Open discussion and endorsement of strategies
June 22	First meeting in series: Topic 3 - Education and presentations
July 27	Second meeting in series: Topic 3 - Open discussion and endorsement of strategies
August 24	First meeting in series: Topic 4 - Education and presentations
September 28	Second meeting in series: Topic 4 - Open discussion and endorsement of strategies
October 26	First meeting in series: Topic 5 - Education and presentations
November 16	Second meeting in series: Topic 5 - Open discussion and endorsement of strategies
December 14	Working meeting on annual report, including policy recommendations and affordability program preview

Sample Schedule, Option 2

Date	Topic
January 26th	Priorities/organization of work
February 23	Meeting on Topic 1 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
March 23	Meeting on Topic 2 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
April 21	Meeting on Topic 3 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
May 18	Meeting on Topic 4 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
June 22	Meeting on Topic 5 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
July 27	Meeting on Topic 6 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
August 24	Meeting on Topic 7 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
September 28	Meeting on Topic 8 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
October 26	Meeting on Topic 9 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
November 16	Meeting on Topic 10 - Education and presentations AND open discussion and endorsement of strategies
December 14	Working meeting on annual report, including policy recommendations and affordability program preview



Open Discussion on Next Steps

Do members prefer the first or second option?

Do members have other ideas for how to organize and prioritize work?

Next steps: The OAHC will organize and categorize priorities and begin organizing meetings based on certain priorities and planning for external presenters and discussions.



Legislative Involvement

Discussion of priorities, work processes, decision making processes, and capacity for legislative involvement.
